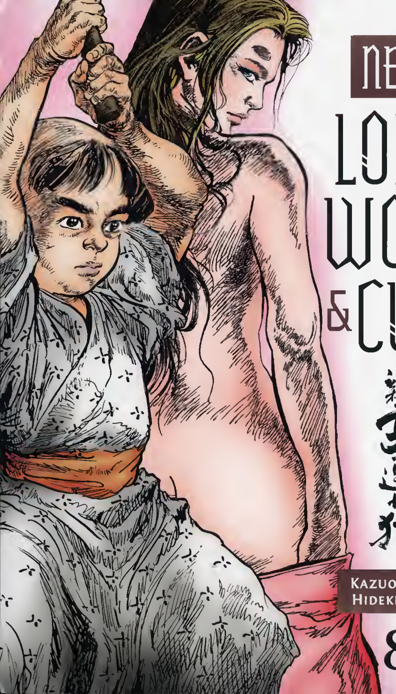

NEW LONE WOLF & CUB

新子連れ狼

KAZUO KOIKE
HIDEKI MORI

8

NEW LONE WOLF & CUB

新・子連れ狼

8

STORY
KAZUO KOIKE

ART
HIDEKI MORI

ORIGINAL
ART CONCEPT
GOSEKI KOJIMA

TRANSLATION
DANA LEWIS

LETTERING
STUDIO CUTIE

DARK HORSE MANGA ®

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DIGITAL ART TECHNICIAN
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NEW LONE WOLF AND CUB VOLUME 8

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新・子連れ狼

LONE WOLF

原作・小池一夫
作画・森秀樹
作画原案・小島剛夕

A NOTE TO READERS

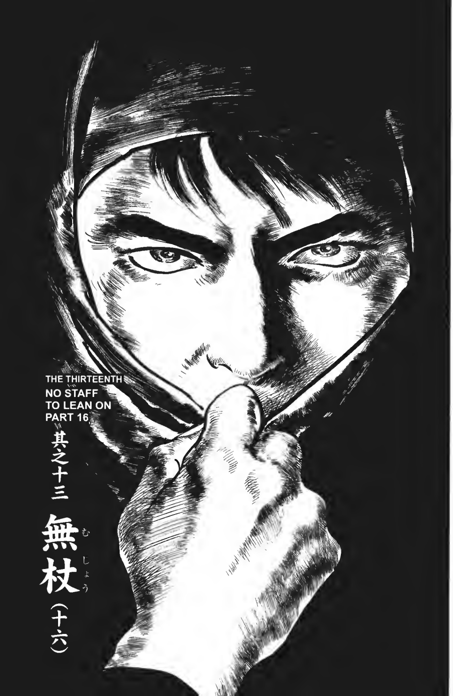
NEW LONE WOLF AND CUB is a carefully researched re-creation of Edo-period Japan. To preserve the flavor of the work, we have chosen to retain terms of the period that have no direct equivalents in English. Japanese is written in a mix of Chinese ideograms and a syllabic writing system, resulting in numerous words with multiple meanings. In the glossary, you may encounter these words. A Japanese reader seeing the different ideograms would know instantly which meaning is intended, but these synonyms can cause confusion when Japanese is spelled out in our alphabet.

Some characters in this series come from the Satsuma region of Japan, an area with its own distinctive dialect. Some common words in this dialect have been left untranslated to better give the impression of this dialect being spoken. These terms are defined in the glossary. Other characters in the story come from places or cultural strata (country folk, gangsters) for which there is no direct translation to identify these characteristics. Here they are given corresponding Americanized speech patterns to highlight these traits.

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(Volume Eight)

5 No Staff to Lean On, Part 16
21 No Staff to Lean On, Part 17
37 No Staff to Lean On, Part 18
53 No Staff to Lean On, Part 19
69 Tower of Light, Part 1
85 Tower of Light, Part 2
101 Tower of Light, Part 3
117 Tower of Light, Part 4
133 Tower of Light, Part 5
149 Tower of Light, Part 6
165 Tower of Light, Part 7
181 Tower of Light, Part 8
197 Tower of Light, Part 9
213 Tower of Light, Part 10

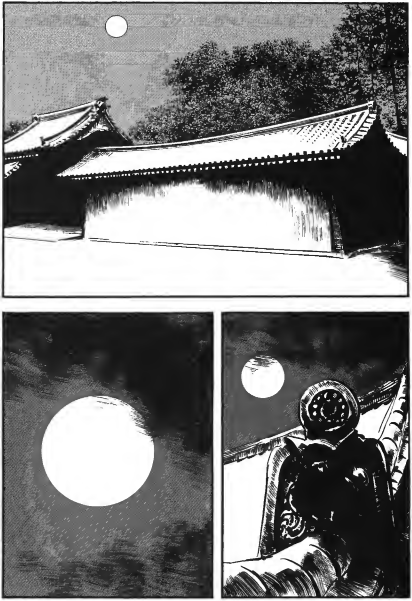
229 Footnotes
231 Glossary

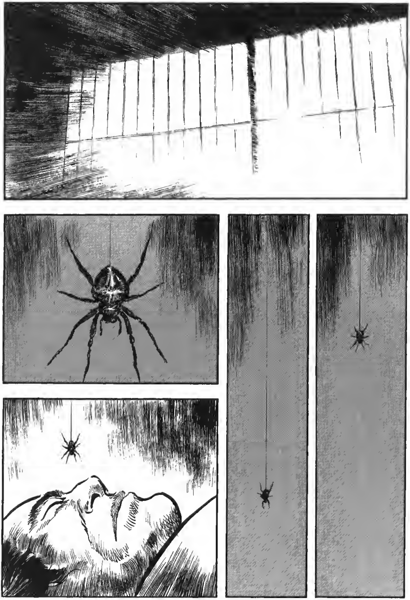


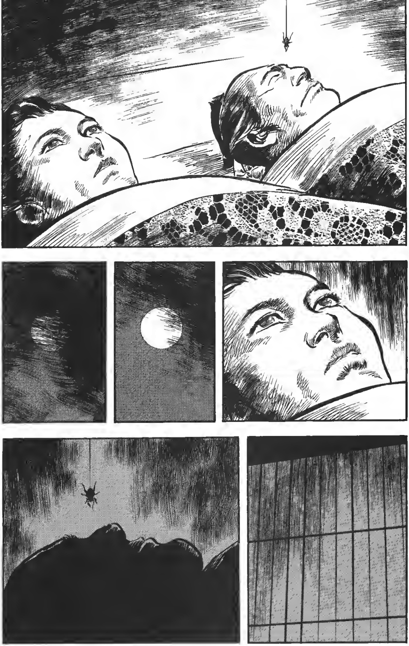
THE THIRTEENTH
NO STAFF TO LEAN ON
PART 16

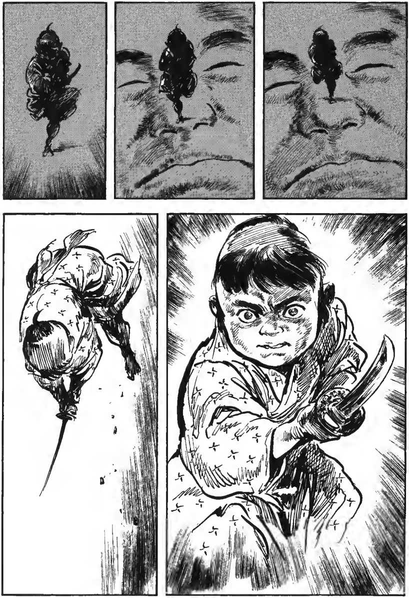
其之十三

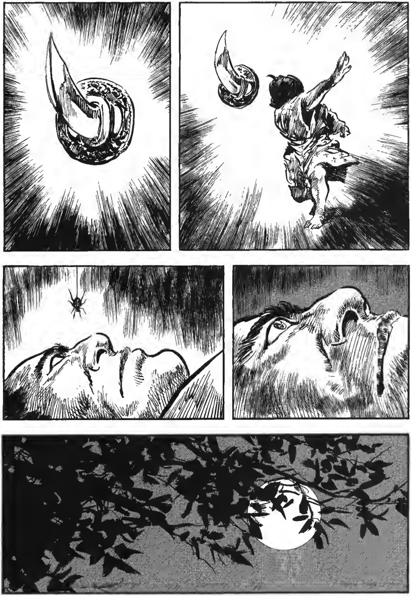
無杖（むじょう）（十六）

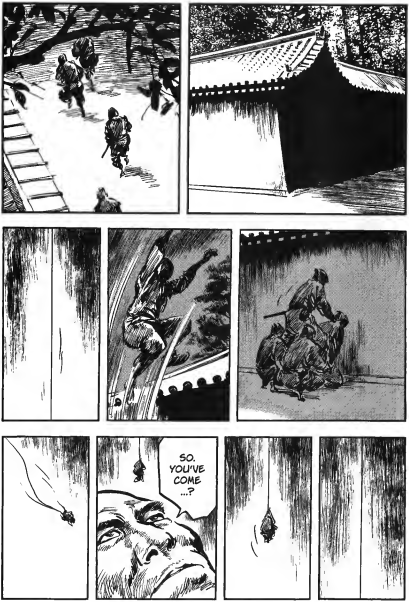


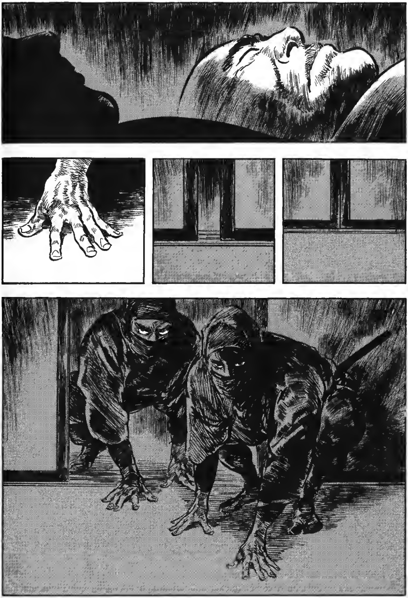


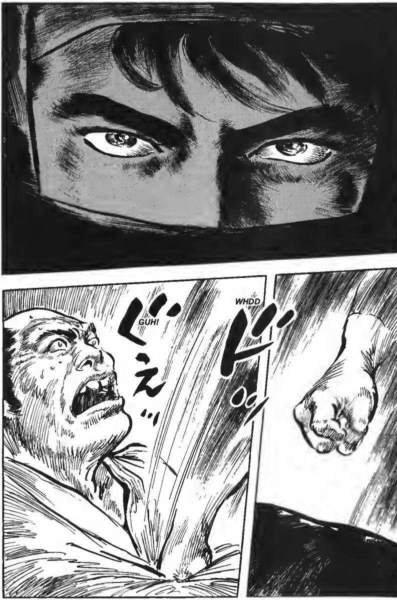







SO. YOU'VE COME ...?

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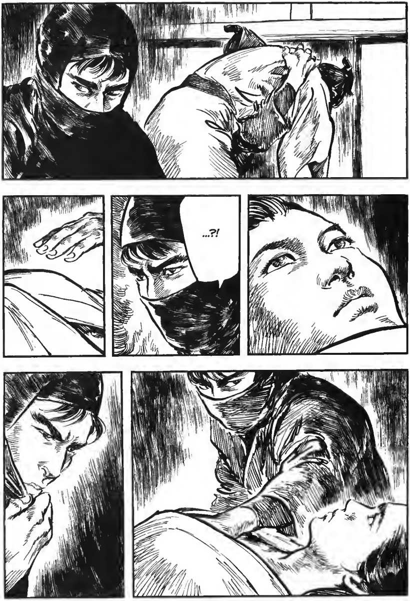

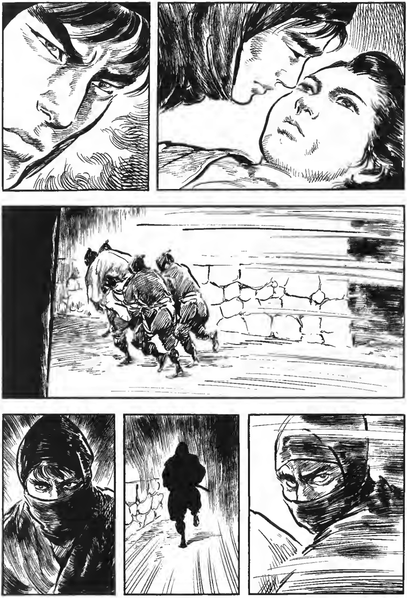

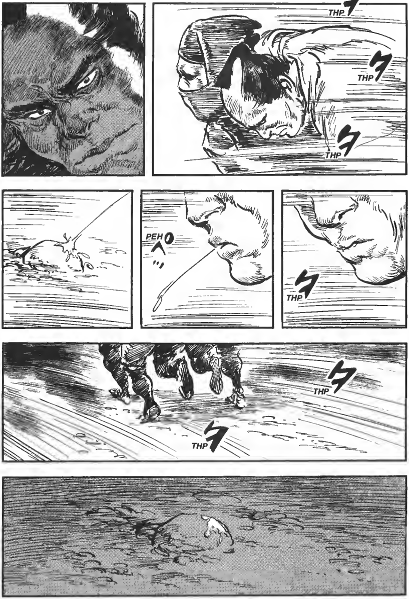
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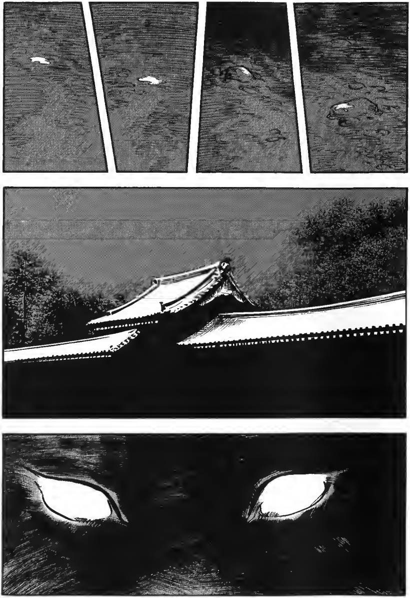

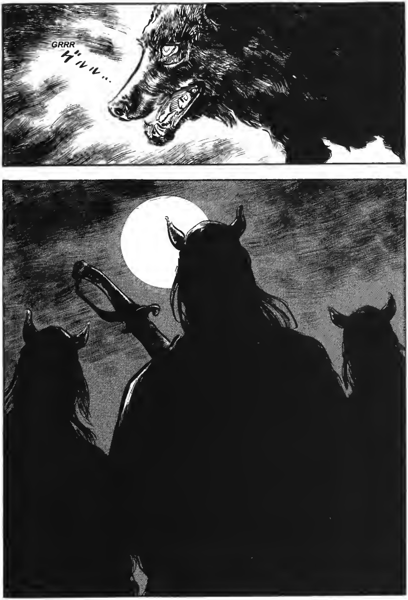
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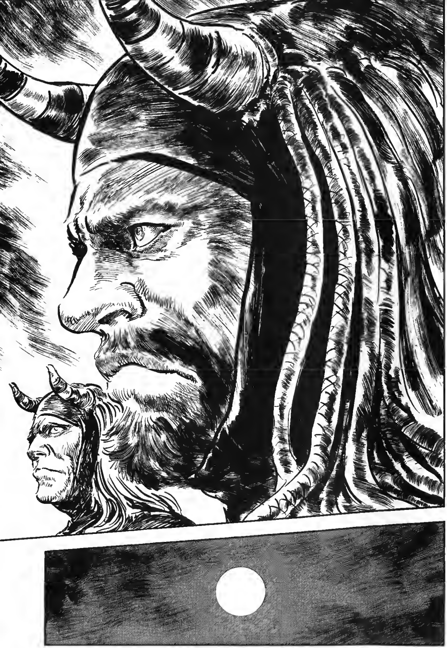

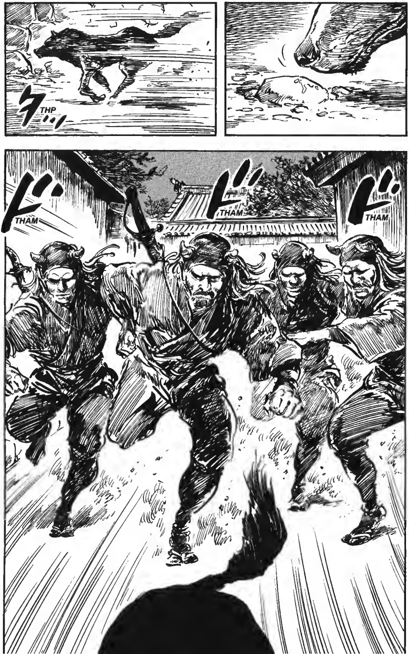
THP
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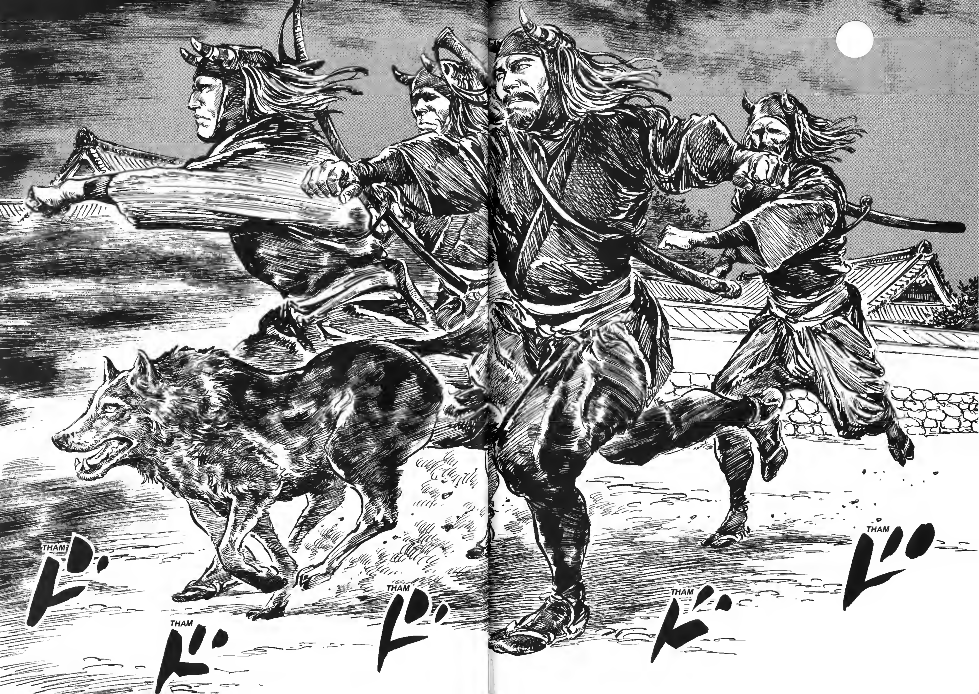
其之十三

無杖（十七）

THE THIRTEENTH

NO STAFF TO LEAN ON

PART 17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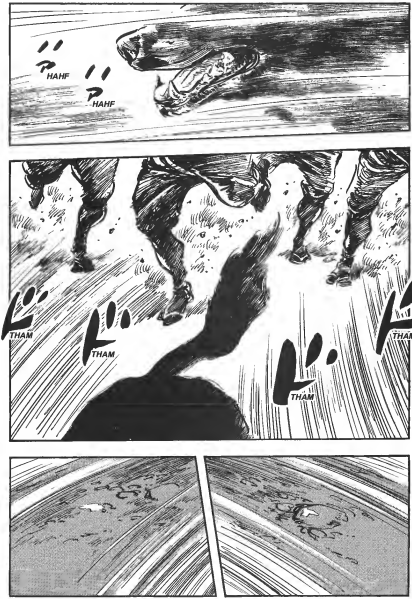
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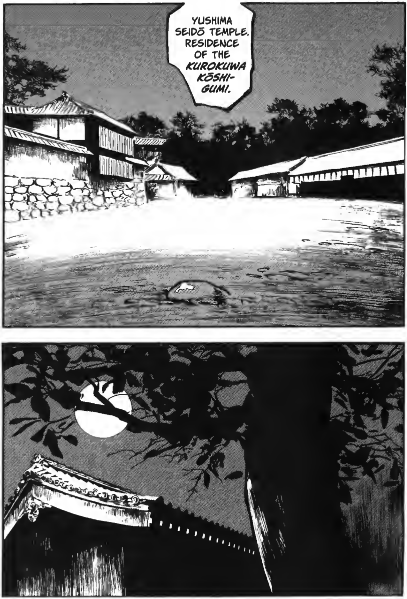
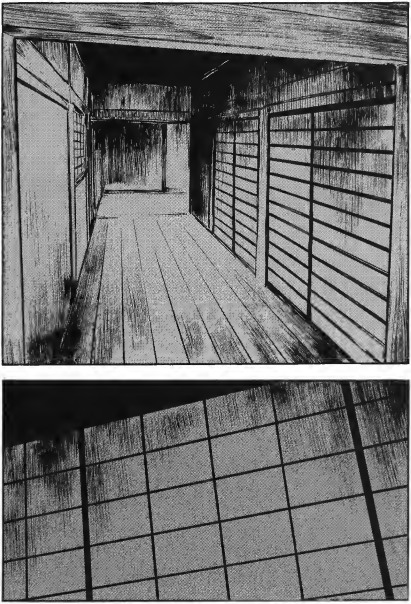
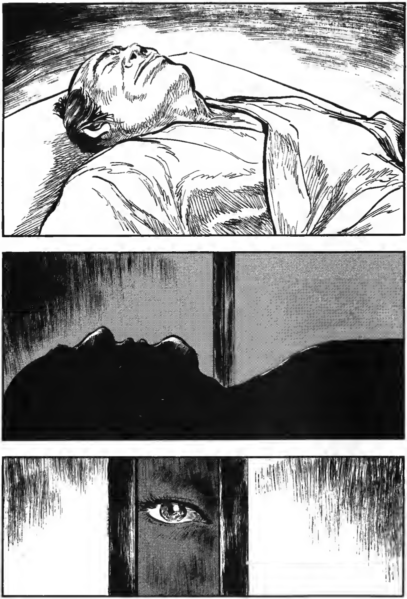
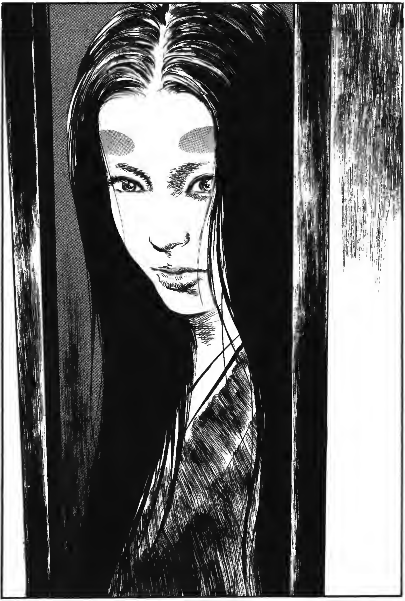
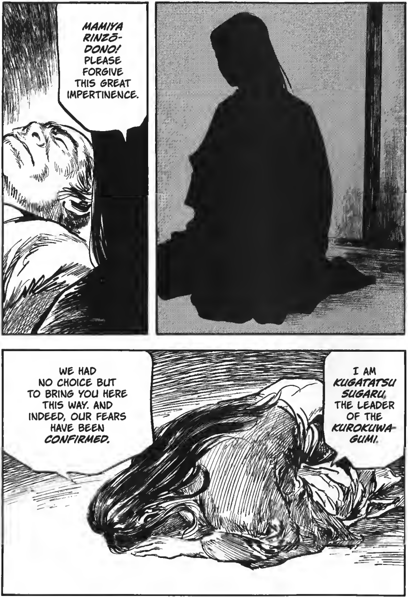
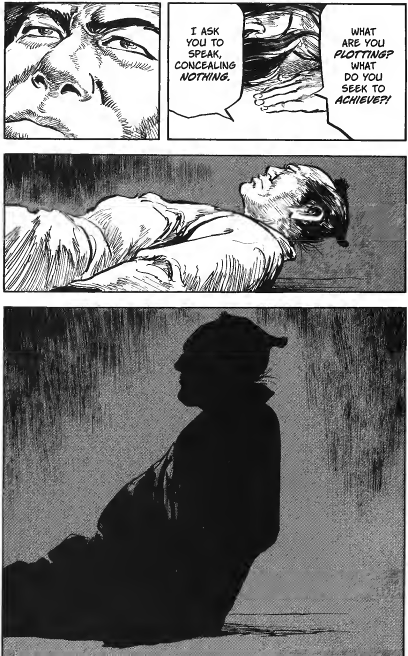

YUSHIMA SEIDŌ TEMPLE. RESIDENCE OF THE *KUROKUWA KŌSHI-GUMI.*

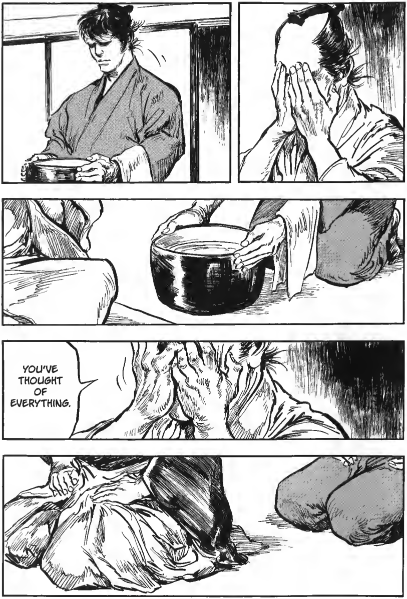


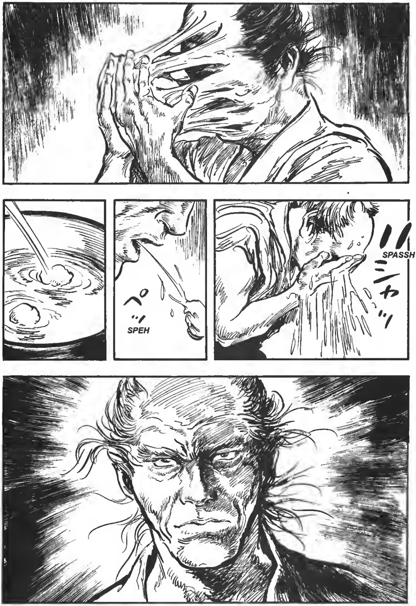





MAMIYA RINZŌ-DONO! PLEASE FORGIVE THIS GREAT IMPERTINENCE.
I AM KUGATATSU SUGARU, THE LEADER OF THE KUROKUWA-GUMI.
WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BRING YOU HERE THIS WAY. AND INDEED, OUR FEARS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED.


WHAT ARE YOU *PLOTTING?* WHAT DO YOU SEEK TO *ACHIEVE?!*
I ASK YOU TO SPEAK, CONCEALING *NOTHING.*


YOU'VE THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING.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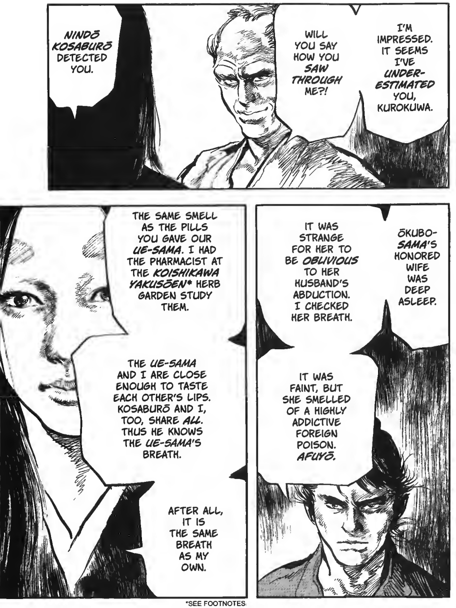
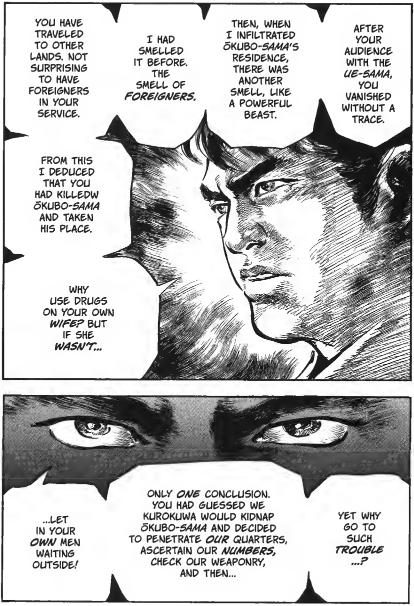
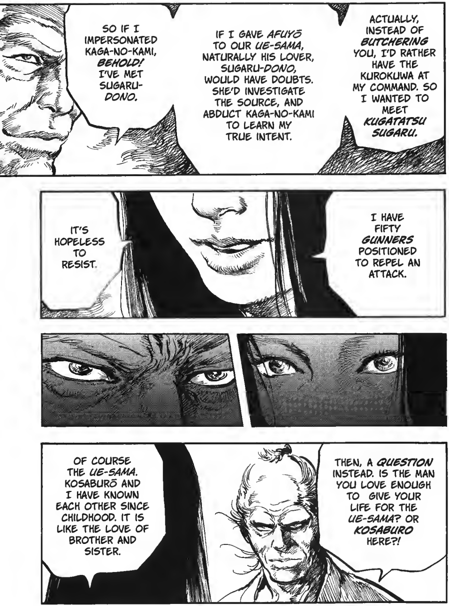
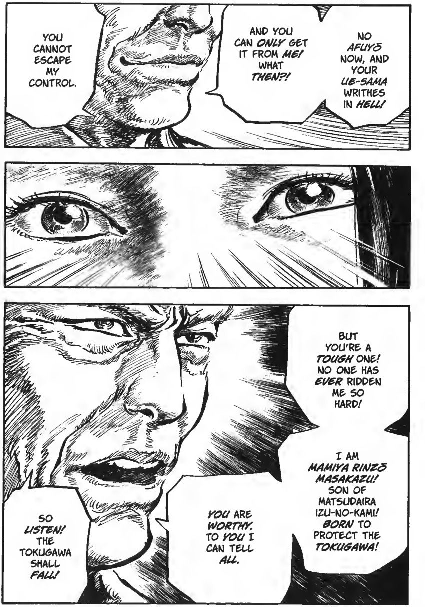

I'M IMPRESSED. IT SEEMS I'VE *UNDERESTIMATED* YOU, KUROKUWA.
WILL YOU SAY HOW YOU *SAW THROUGH* ME?!
NINDŌ KOSABURŌ DETECTED YOU.
ŌKUBO-*SAMA*'S HONORED WIFE WAS DEEP ASLEEP.
IT WAS STRANGE FOR HER TO BE *OBLIVIOUS* TO HER HUSBAND'S ABDUCTION. I CHECKED HER BREATH.
IT WAS FAINT, BUT SHE SMELLED OF A HIGHLY ADDICTIVE FOREIGN POISON. *AFUYŌ.*
THE SAME SMELL AS THE PILLS YOU GAVE OUR *UE-SAMA*. I HAD THE PHARMACIST AT THE *KOISHIKAWA YAKUSŌEN** HERB GARDEN STUDY THEM.
THE *UE-SAMA* AND I ARE CLOSE ENOUGH TO TASTE EACH OTHER'S LIPS. KOSABURŌ AND I, TOO, SHARE *ALL*. THUS HE KNOWS THE *UE-SAMA*'S BREATH.
AFTER ALL, IT IS THE SAME BREATH AS MY OWN.

*SEE FOOTNOTES


AFTER YOUR AUDIENCE WITH THE *UE-SAMA*, YOU VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE.
THEN, WHEN I INFILTRATED ŌKUBO-*SAMA*'S RESIDENCE, THERE WAS ANOTHER SMELL, LIKE A POWERFUL BEAST.
I HAD SMELLED IT BEFORE. THE SMELL OF *FOREIGNERS.*
YOU HAVE TRAVELED TO OTHER LANDS. NOT SURPRISING TO HAVE FOREIGNERS IN YOUR SERVICE.
FROM THIS I DEDUCED THAT YOU HAD KILLEDW ŌKUBO-*SAMA* AND TAKEN HIS PLACE.
WHY USE DRUGS ON YOUR OWN *WIFE?* BUT IF SHE *WASN'T...*
YET WHY GO TO SUCH *TROUBLE* ...?
ONLY *ONE* CONCLUSION. YOU HAD GUESSED WE KUROKUWA WOULD KIDNAP ŌKUBO-*SAMA* AND DECIDED TO PENETRATE *OUR* QUARTERS, ASCERTAIN OUR *NUMBERS,* CHECK OUR WEAPONRY, AND THEN...
...LET IN YOUR *OWN* MEN WAITING OUTSIDE!


ACTUALLY, INSTEAD OF *BUTCHERING* YOU, I'D RATHER HAVE THE KUROKUWA AT MY COMMAND. SO I WANTED TO MEET *KUGATATSU SUGARU.*
IF I GAVE *AFUYŌ* TO OUR *UE-SAMA*, NATURALLY HIS LOVER, SUGARU-*DONO*, WOULD HAVE DOUBTS. SHE'D INVESTIGATE THE SOURCE, AND ABDUCT KAGA-NO-KAMI TO LEARN MY TRUE INTENT.
SO IF I IMPERSONATED KAGA-NO-KAMI, *BEHOLD!* I'VE MET SUGARU-*DONO.*
I HAVE FIFTY *GUNNERS* POSITIONED TO REPEL AN ATTACK.
IT'S HOPELESS TO RESIST.
THEN, A *QUESTION* INSTEAD. IS THE MAN YOU LOVE ENOUGH TO GIVE YOUR LIFE FOR THE *UE-SAMA*? OR *KOSABURO* HERE?!
OF COURSE THE *UE-SAMA*. KOSABURŌ AND I HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE CHILDHOOD. IT IS LIKE THE LOVE OF BROTHER AND SISTER.

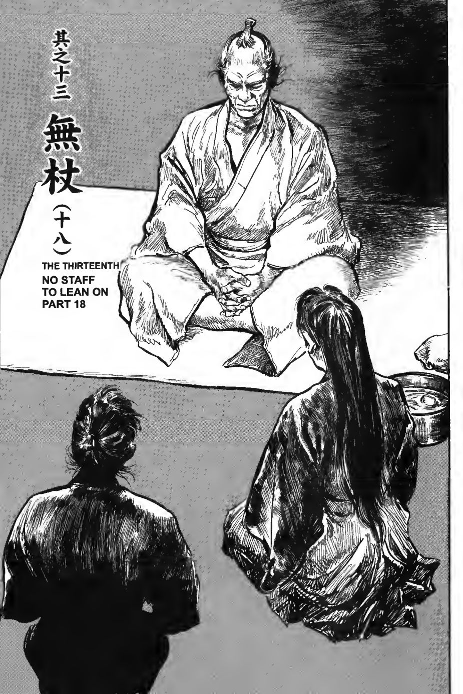

NO *AFUYŌ* NOW, AND YOUR *UE-SAMA* WRITHES IN *HELL!*
AND YOU CAN *ONLY* GET IT FROM *ME!* WHAT *THEN?!*
YOU CANNOT ESCAPE MY CONTROL.
BUT YOU'RE A *TOUGH* ONE! NO ONE HAS *EVER* RIDDEN ME SO HARD!
I AM *MAMIYA RINZŌ MASAKAZU!* SON OF MATSUDAIRA IZU-NO-KAMI! *BORN* TO PROTECT THE *TOKUGAWA!*
YOU ARE *WORTHY.* TO *YOU* I CAN TELL *ALL.*
SO *LISTEN!* THE TOKUGAWA SHALL *FALL!*

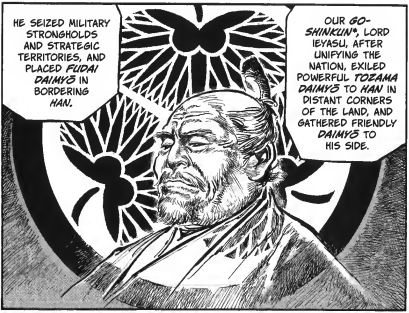
其之十三

無杖

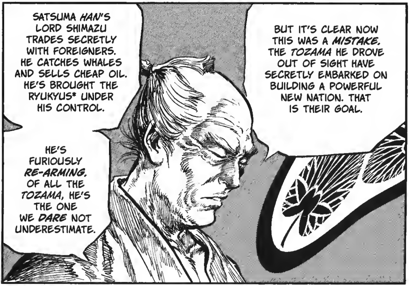
（十八）

THE THIRTEENTH
NO STAFF TO LEAN ON
PART 18

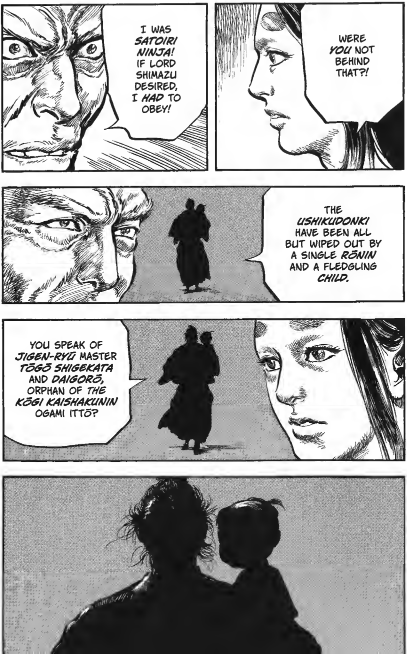


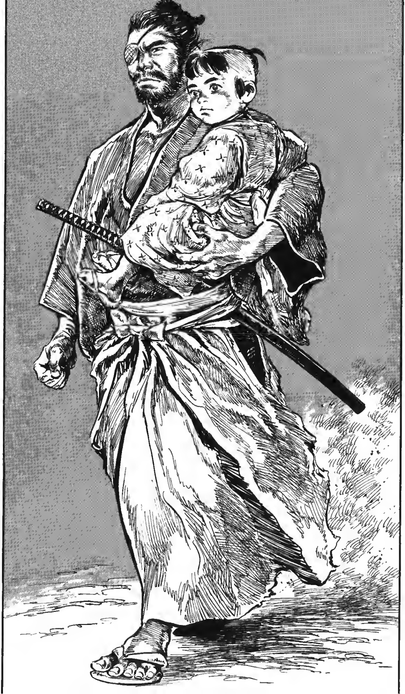

OUR *GO-SHINKUN**, LORD IEYASU, AFTER UNIFYING THE NATION, EXILED POWERFUL *TOZAMA DAIMYŌ* TO *HAN* IN DISTANT CORNERS OF THE LAND, AND GATHERED FRIENDLY *DAIMYŌ* TO HIS SIDE.
HE SEIZED MILITARY STRONGHOLDS AND STRATEGIC TERRITORIES, AND PLACED *FUDAI DAIMYŌ* IN BORDERING *HAN.*

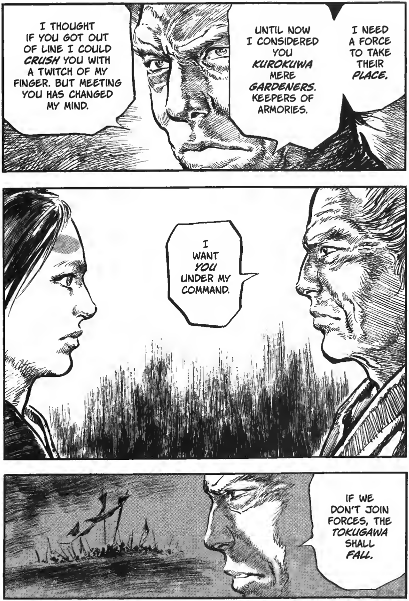
*SEE FOOTNOTES.

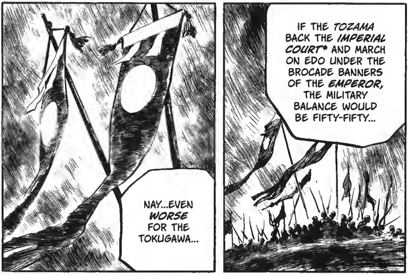

BUT IT'S CLEAR NOW THIS WAS A *MISTAKE.* THE *TOZAMA* HE DROVE OUT OF SIGHT HAVE SECRETLY EMBARKED ON BUILDING A POWERFUL NEW NATION. THAT IS THEIR GOAL.
SATSUMA *HAN*'S LORD SHIMAZU TRADES SECRETLY WITH FOREIGNERS. HE CATCHES WHALES AND SELLS CHEAP OIL. HE'S BROUGHT THE RYUKYUS* UNDER HIS CONTROL.
HE'S FURIOUSLY *RE-ARMING.* OF ALL THE *TOZAMA*, HE'S THE ONE WE *DARE* NOT UNDERESTIMATE.

*SEE FOOTNOTES.

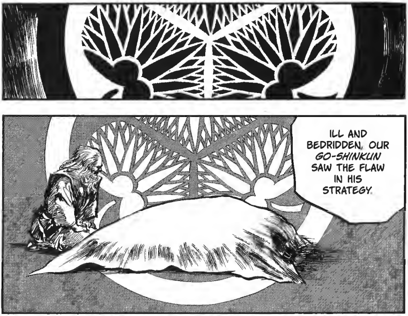

WERE *YOU* NOT BEHIND THAT?!
I WAS *SATOIRI NINJA!* IF LORD SHIMAZU DESIRED, I *HAD* TO OBEY!
THE *USHIKUDONKI* HAVE BEEN ALL BUT WIPED OUT BY A SINGLE *RŌNIN* AND A FLEDGLING *CHILD.*
YOU SPEAK OF *JIGEN-RYŪ* MASTER *TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA* AND *DAIGORŌ,* ORPHAN OF *THE KŌGI KAISHAKUNIN* OGAMI ITTŌ?

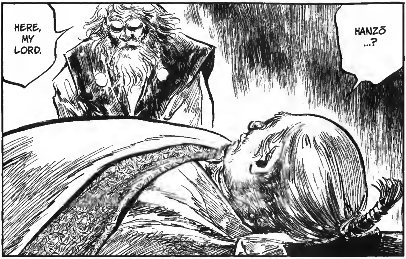


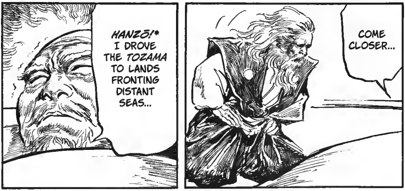

I THOUGHT IF YOU GOT OUT OF LINE I COULD *CRUSH* YOU WITH A TWITCH OF MY FINGER. BUT MEETING YOU HAS CHANGED MY MIND.
UNTIL NOW I CONSIDERED YOU *KUROKUWA* MERE *GARDENERS*. KEEPERS OF ARMORIES.
I NEED A FORCE TO TAKE THEIR *PLACE.*
I WANT *YOU* UNDER MY COMMAND.
IF WE DON'T JOIN FORCES, THE *TOKUGAWA* SHALL *FALL.*


IF THE *TOZAMA* BACK THE *IMPERIAL COURT** AND MARCH ON EDO UNDER THE BROCADE BANNERS OF THE *EMPEROR,* THE MILITARY BALANCE WOULD BE FIFTY-FIFTY...
NAY...EVEN ***WORSE*** FOR THE TOKUGAWA...

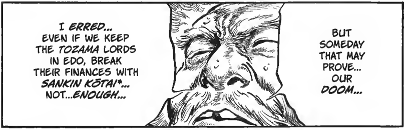
*SEE FOOTNOTES


ILL AND BEDRIDDEN, OUR *GO-SHINKUN* SAW THE FLAW IN HIS STRATEGY.

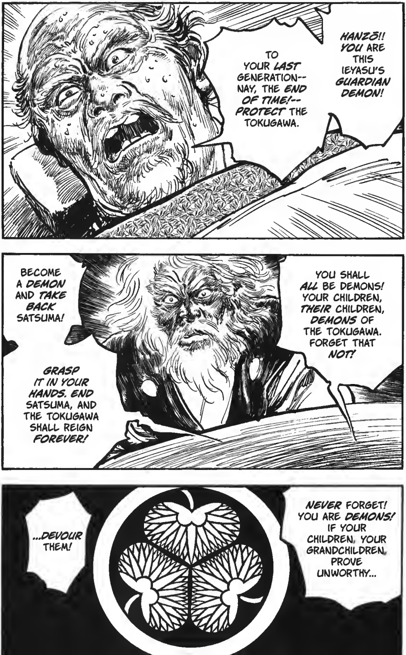

HANZŌ ...?
HERE, MY LORD.

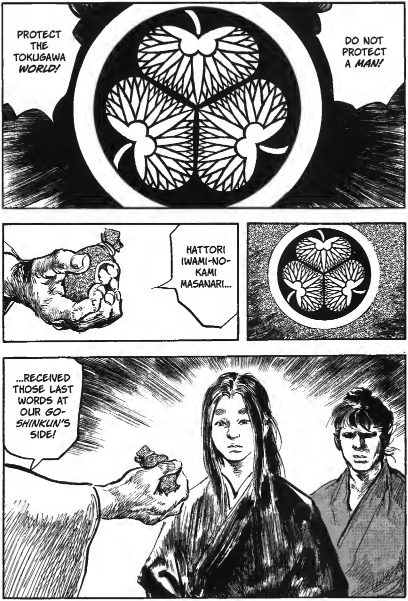

*HANZŌ!** I DROVE THE *TOZAMA* TO LANDS FRONTING DISTANT SEAS...
COME CLOSER...

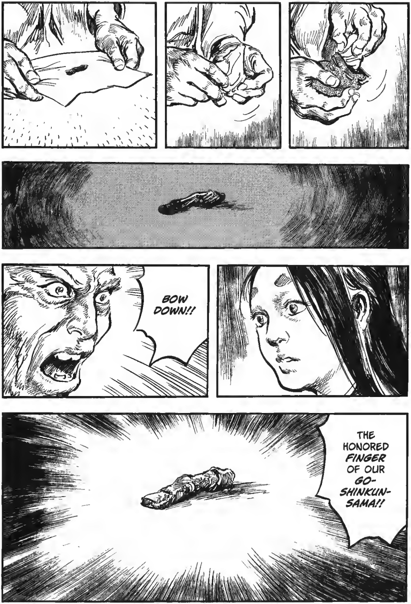
*SEE FOOTNOTES

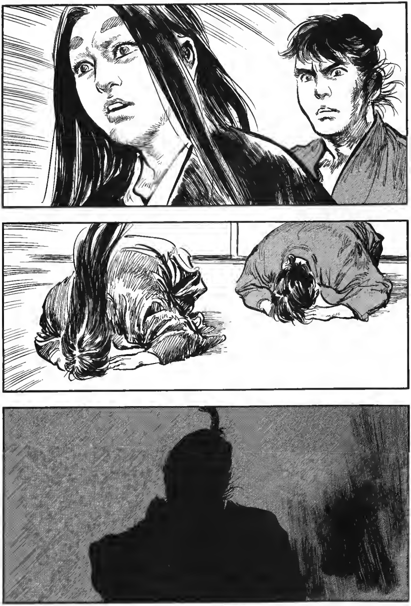

I *ERRED...* EVEN IF WE KEEP THE *TOZAMA* LORDS IN EDO, BREAK THEIR FINANCES WITH *SANKIN KŌTAI!**... NOT...*ENOUGH...*
BUT SOMEDAY THAT MAY PROVE... OUR *DOOM...*

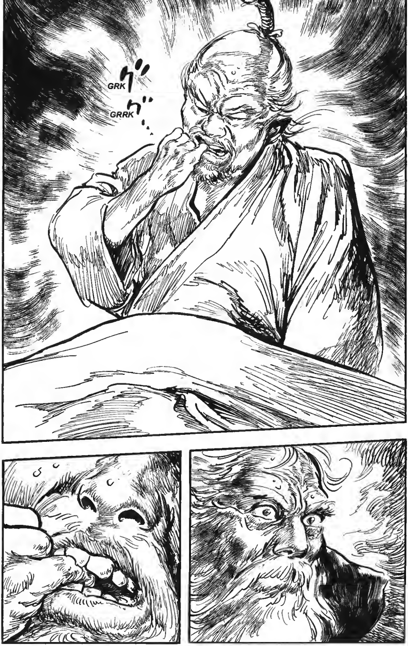
*SEE FOOTNOTES

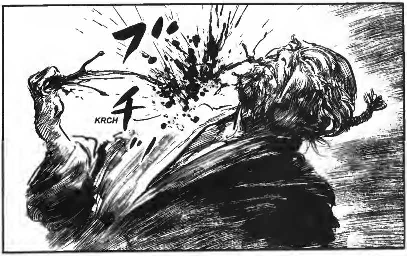

HANZŌ!! YOU ARE THIS IEYASU'S GUARDIAN DEMON!
TO YOUR LAST GENERATION--NAY, THE END OF TIME!--PROTECT THE TOKUGAWA.
YOU SHALL ALL BE DEMONS! YOUR CHILDREN, THEIR CHILDREN, DEMONS OF THE TOKUGAWA. FORGET THAT NOT!
BECOME A DEMON AND TAKE BACK SATSUMA!
GRASP IT IN YOUR HANDS. END SATSUMA, AND THE TOKUGAWA SHALL REIGN FOREVER!
NEVER FORGET! YOU ARE DEMONS! IF YOUR CHILDREN, YOUR GRANDCHILDREN, PROVE UNWORTHY...
...DEVOUR THEM!

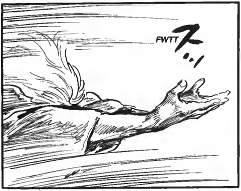

PROTECT THE TOKUGAWA *WORLD!*
DO NOT PROTECT A *MAN!*
HATTORI IWAMI-NO-KAMI MASANARI...
...RECEIVED THOSE LAST WORDS AT OUR *GO-SHINKUN*'S SIDE!

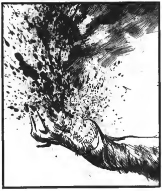

BOW DOWN!!
THE HONORED FINGER OF OUR GO-SHINKUN-SAMA!!

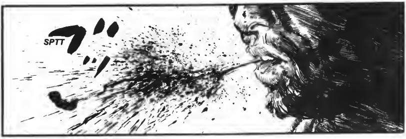


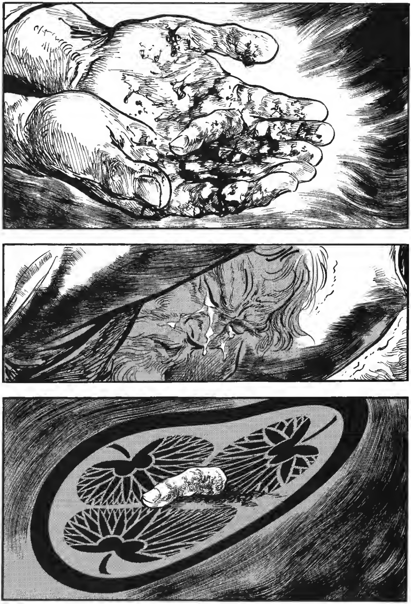

GRK
GRRK

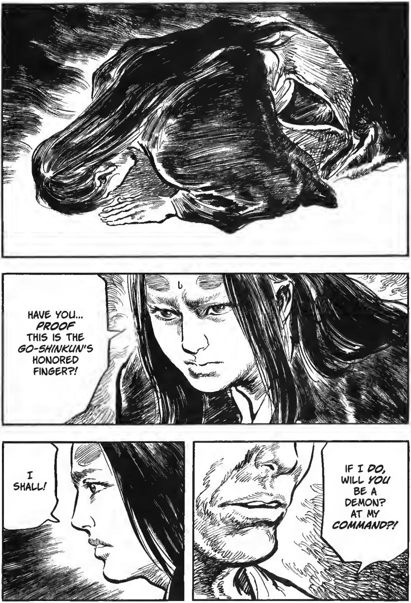

ブチジッ
KRCH

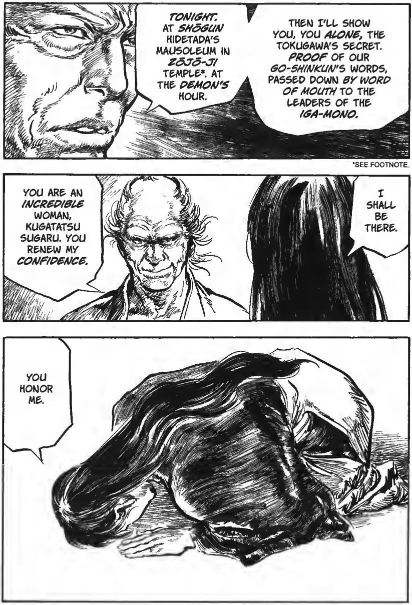

スッ
FWTT



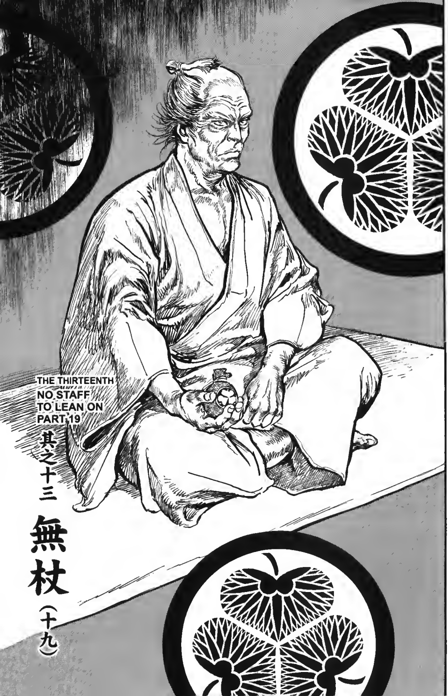

ブッ
SPTT

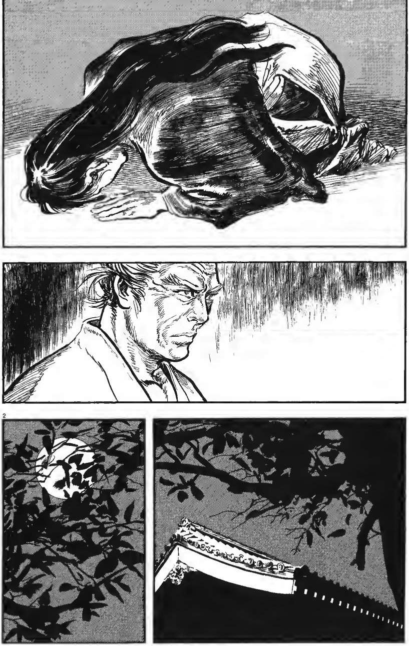



HAVE YOU... *PROOF* THIS IS THE *GO-SHINKUN*'S HONORED FINGER?!
IF I *DO*, WILL *YOU* BE A DEMON? AT MY *COMMAND*?!
I SHALL!


TONIGHT. AT *SHŌGUN* HIDETADA'S MAUSOLEUM IN *ZŌJŌ-JI* TEMPLE*. AT THE *DEMON'S* HOUR.
THEN I'LL SHOW YOU, YOU *ALONE,* THE TOKUGAWA'S SECRET. *PROOF* OF OUR *GO-SHINKUN'S* WORDS, PASSED DOWN *BY WORD OF MOUTH* TO THE LEADERS OF THE *IGA-MONO.*
YOU ARE AN *INCREDIBLE* WOMAN, KUGATATSU SUGARU. YOU RENEW MY *CONFIDENCE.*
I SHALL BE THERE.
YOU HONOR ME.

*SEE FOOTNOTE.


THE THIRTEENTH
NO STAFF
TO LEAN ON
PART 19
其之十三
無杖
（十九）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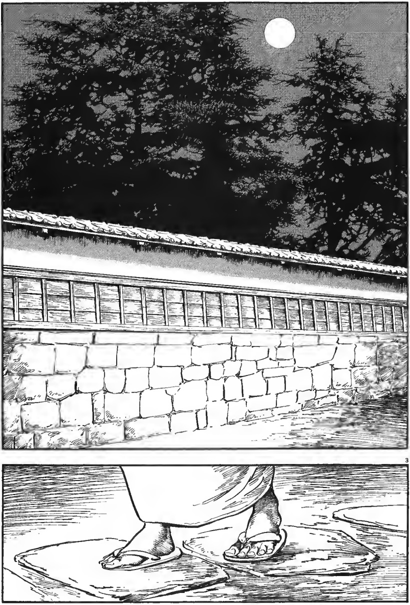
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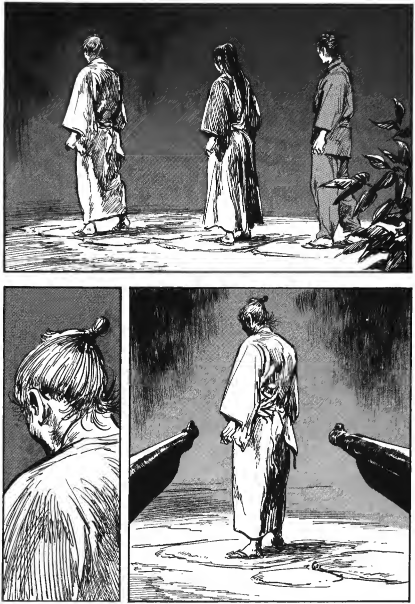
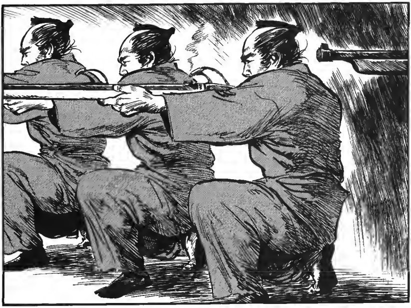
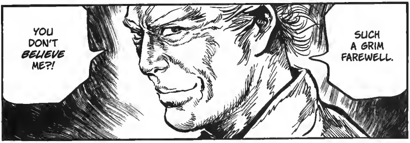
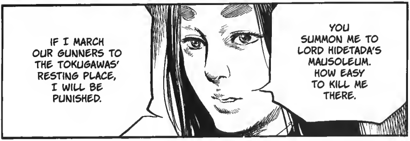
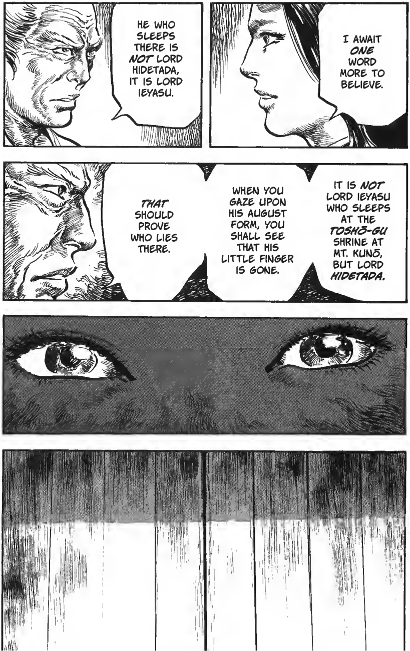
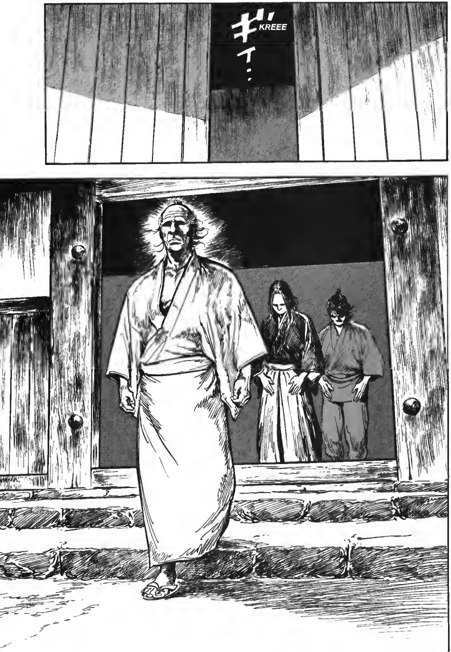


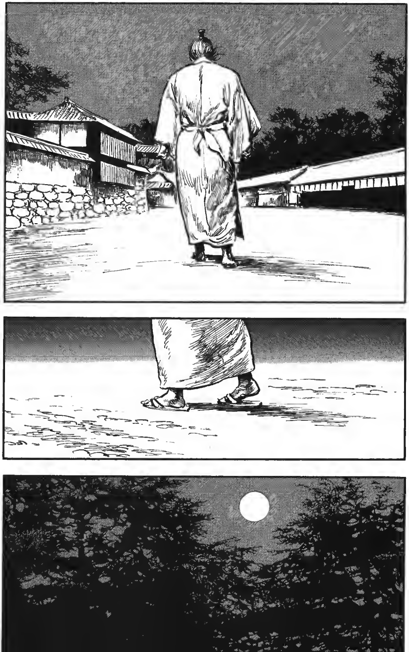


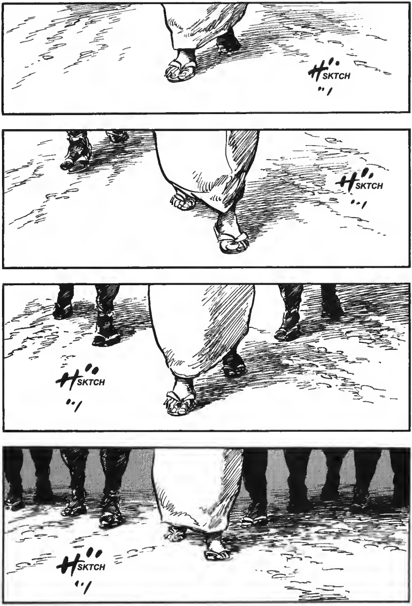

SUCH A GRIM FAREWELL.
YOU DON'T *BELIEVE* ME?!

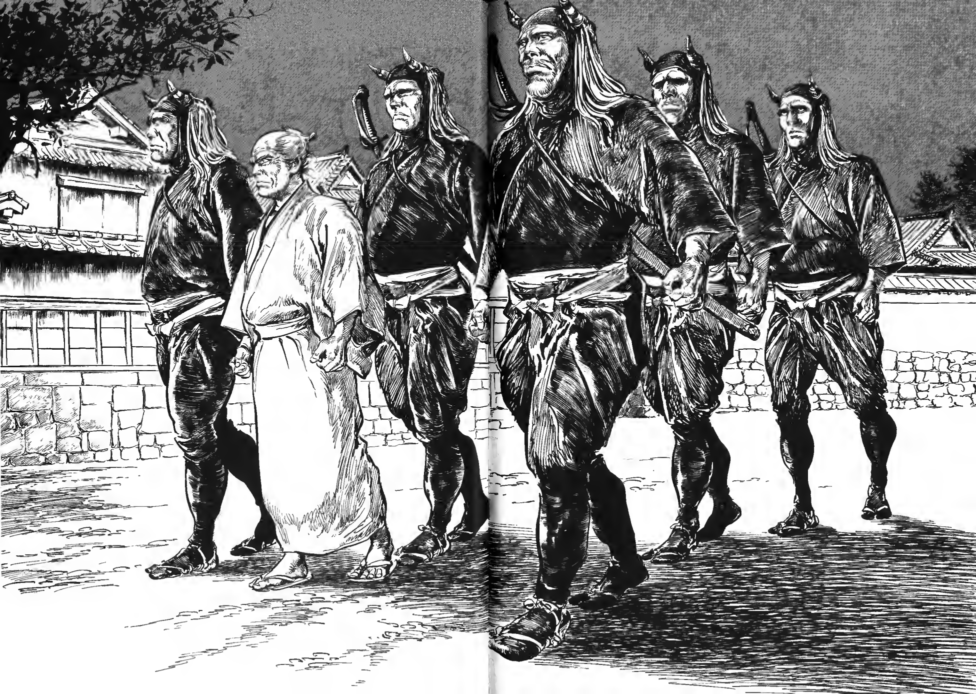

YOU SUMMON ME TO LORD HIDETADA'S MAUSOLEUM. HOW EASY TO KILL ME THERE.
IF I MARCH OUR GUNNERS TO THE TOKUGAWAS' RESTING PLACE, I WILL BE PUNISHED.

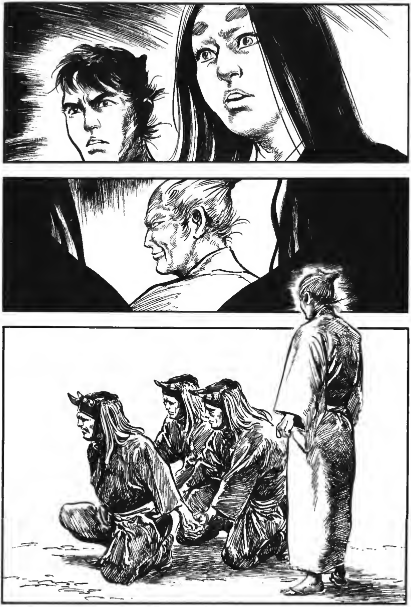

I AWAIT *ONE* WORD MORE TO BELIEVE.
HE WHO SLEEPS THERE IS *NOT* LORD HIDETADA, IT IS LORD IEYASU.
IT IS *NOT* LORD IEYASU WHO SLEEPS AT THE *TOSHŌ-GU* SHRINE AT MT. KUNŌ, BUT LORD *HIDETADA.*
WHEN YOU GAZE UPON HIS AUGUST FORM, YOU SHALL SEE THAT HIS LITTLE FINGER IS GONE.
THAT SHOULD PROVE WHO LIES THERE.

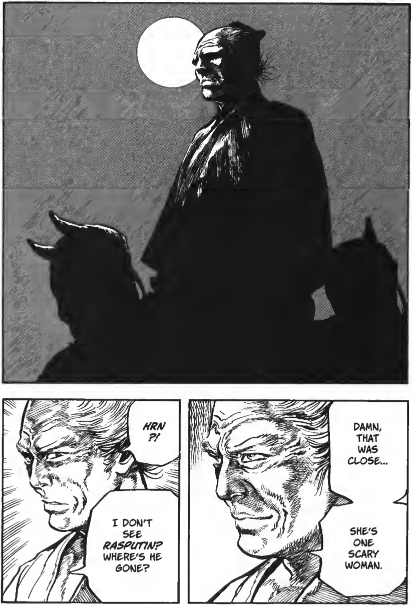

ギィ…
KREEE

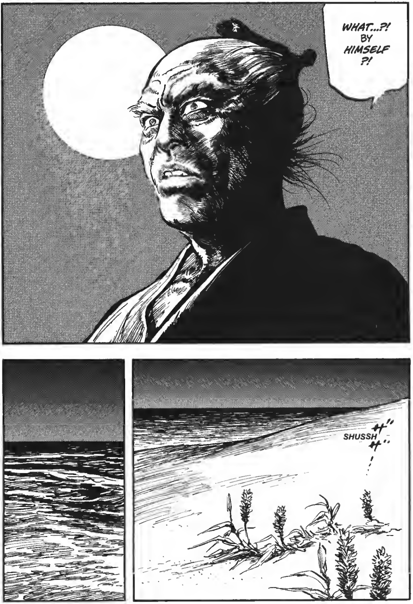


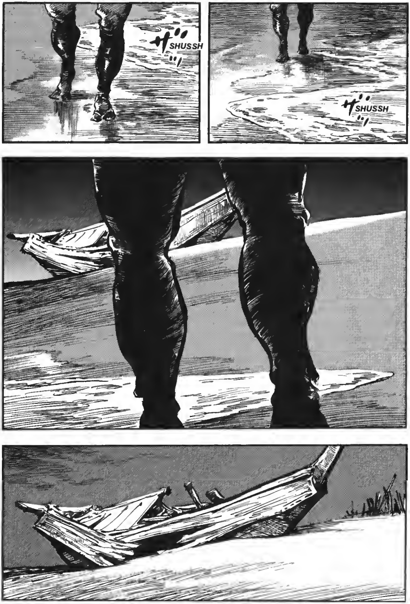

SKTCH
SKTCH
SKTCH
SKTCH

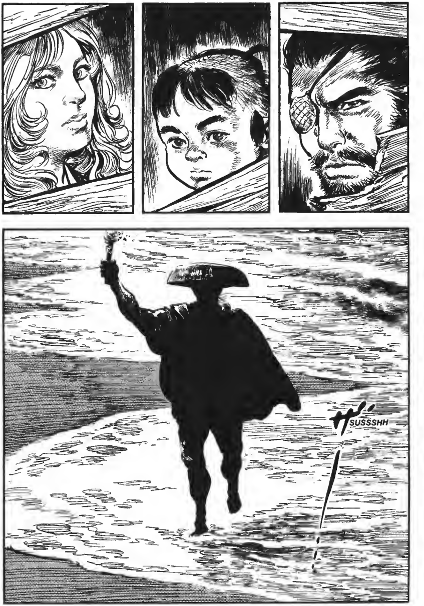





HRN ?!
I DON'T SEE *RASPUTIN?* WHERE'S HE GONE?
DAMN, THAT WAS CLOSE...
SHE'S ONE SCARY WOMAN.


WHAT...?! BY HIMSELF ?!
SHUSSH


SHUSSH
SHUSSH

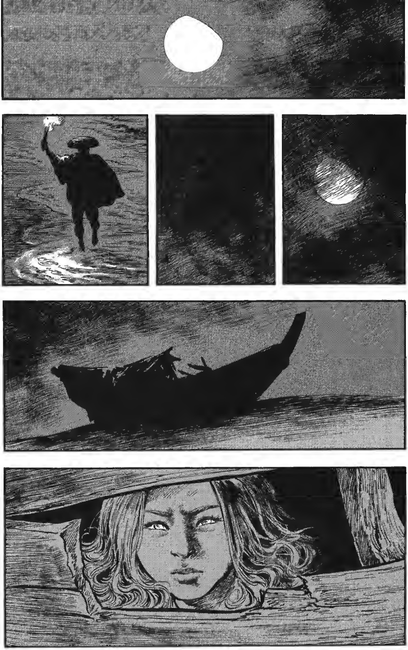


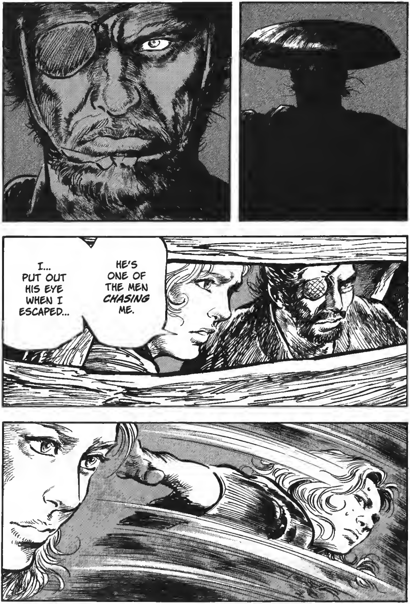
THE THIRTEENTH NO STAFF TO LEAN ON / THE END

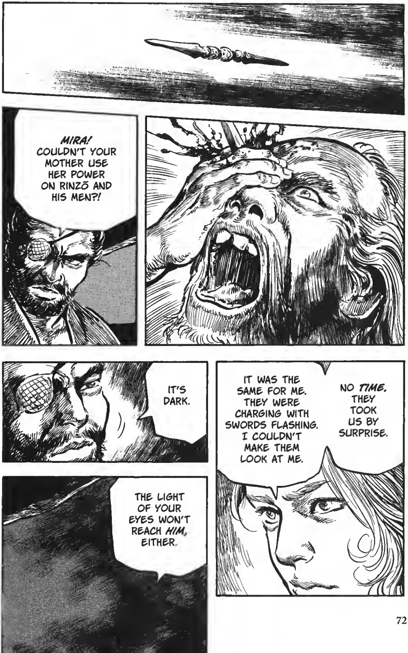
其之十四

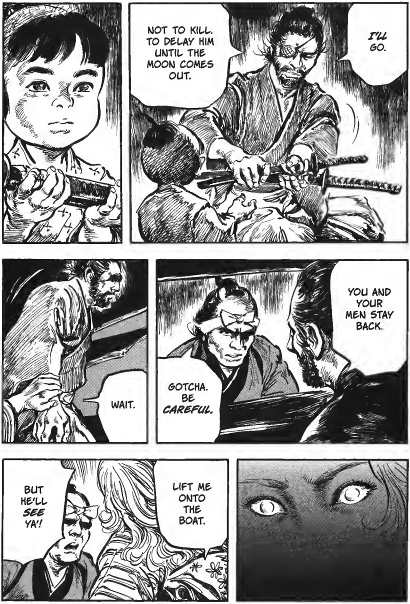
籾塔（もみとう）（一）

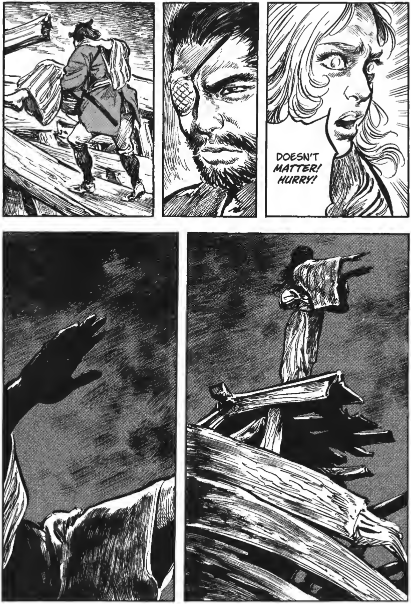
THE FOURTEENTH
TOWER OF LIFE
PART 1

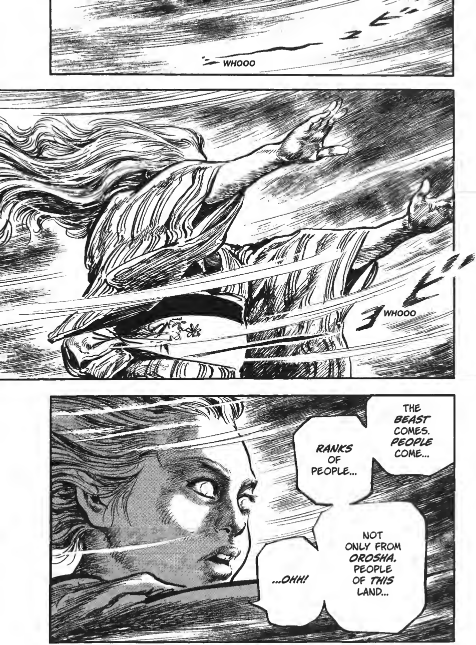


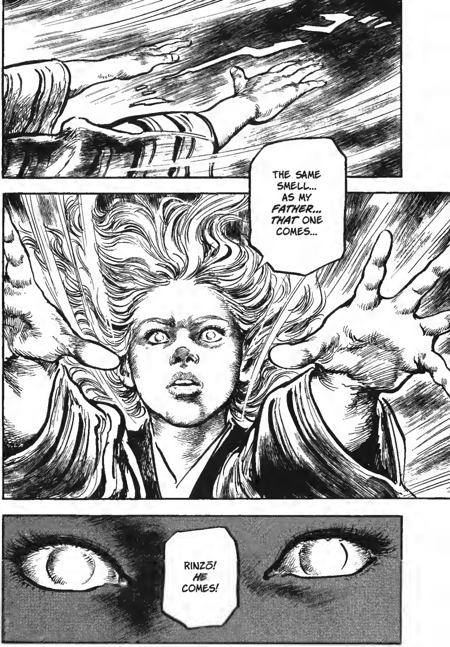

HE'S ONE OF THE MEN *CHASING* ME.
I... PUT OUT HIS EYE WHEN I ESCAPED...

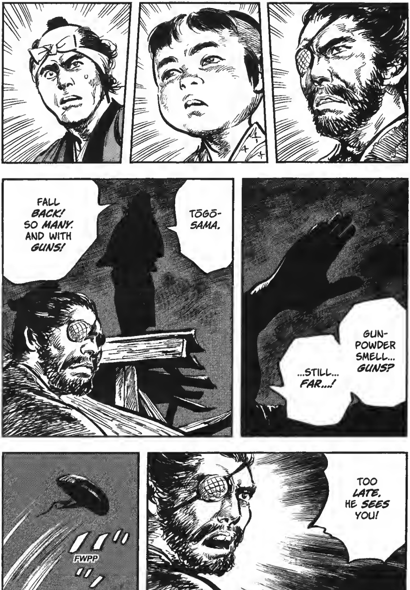

MIRA! COULDN'T YOUR MOTHER USE HER POWER ON RINZŌ AND HIS MEN?!
IT'S DARK.
NO *TIME.* THEY TOOK US BY SURPRISE.
IT WAS THE SAME FOR ME. THEY WERE CHARGING WITH SWORDS FLASHING. I COULDN'T MAKE THEM LOOK AT ME.
THE LIGHT OF YOUR EYES WON'T REACH *HIM,* EITHER.

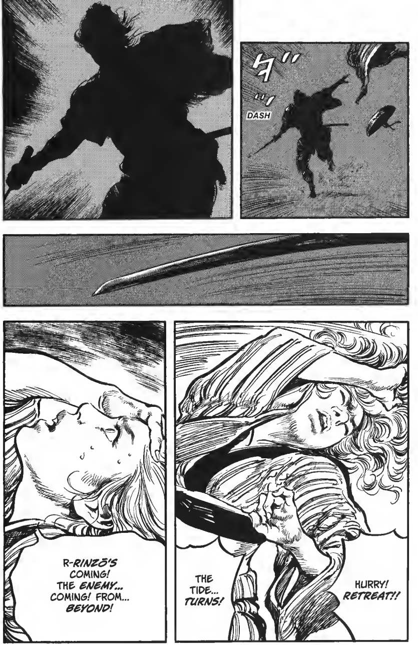

NOT TO KILL. TO DELAY HIM UNTIL THE MOON COMES OUT.
I'LL GO.
WAIT.
YOU AND YOUR MEN STAY BACK.
GOTCHA. BE *CAREFUL.*
LIFT ME ONTO THE BOAT.
BUT HE'LL *SEE* YA'!

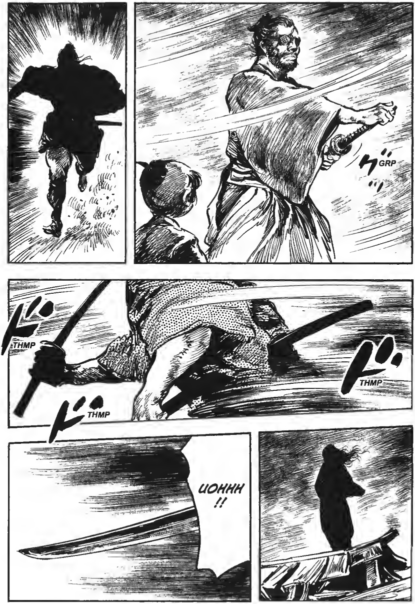

DOESN'T *MATTER!* *HURRY!*

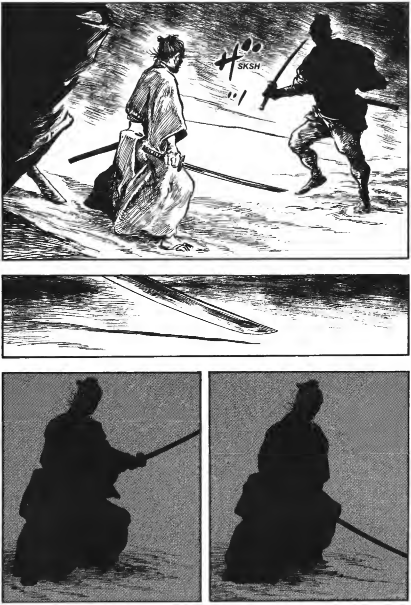

WHOOO
WHOOO
THE *BEAST* COMES. *PEOPLE* COME...
RANKS OF PEOPLE...
NOT ONLY FROM *OROSHA.* PEOPLE OF *THIS* LAND...
...OHH!

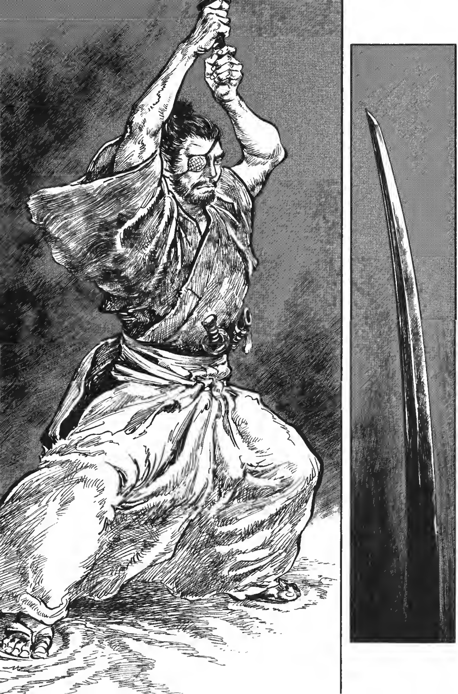

THE SAME SMELL... AS MY *FATHER*... *THAT* ONE COMES...
RINZŌ! *HE* COMES!

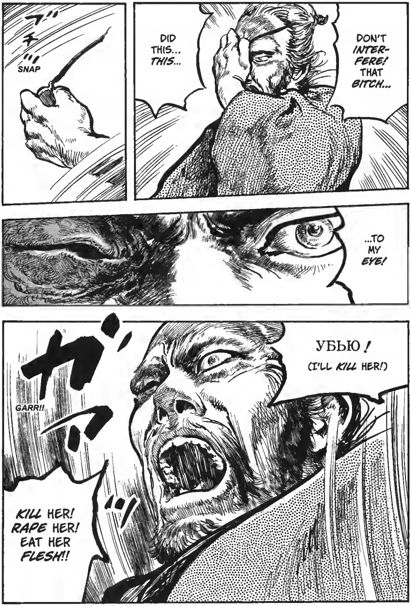

FALL BACK! SO MANY. AND WITH GUNS!
TŌGŌ-SAMA.
GUNPOWDER SMELL... GUNS?
...STILL... FAR...!
FWPP
TOO LATE. HE SEES YOU!

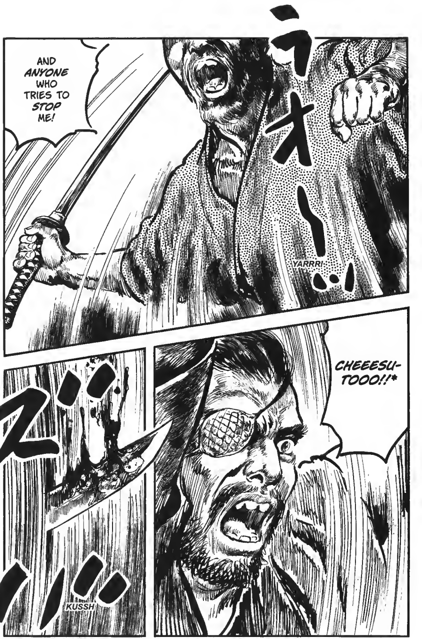

ダッ
DASH
HURRY! RETREAT!!
THE TIDE... TURNS!
R-RINZŌ'S COMING! THE ENEMY... COMING! FROM... BEYOND!


GRP
THMP
THMP
THMP
UOHHH !!

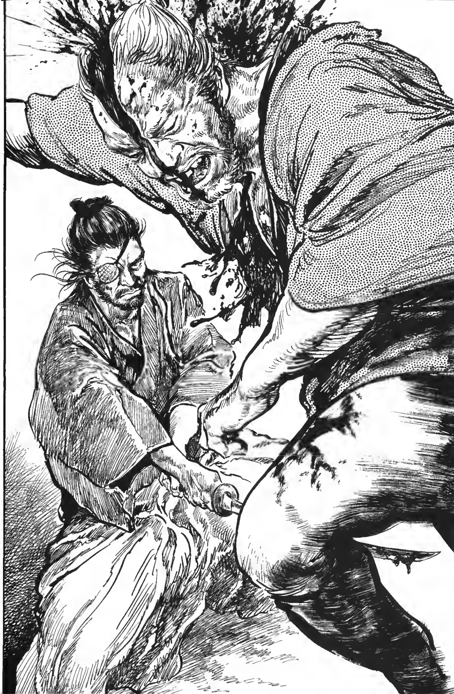

SKSH




DON'T *INTERFERE!* THAT *BITCH...*
DID THIS... *THIS...*
ブチッ
SNAP
...TO MY *EYE!*
УБЬЮ!
(I'LL *KILL* HER!)
ガァッ
GARR!!
KILL HER! *RAPE* HER! EAT HER *FLESH!!*


ウオー…!!
YARRR!
AND ANYONE WHO TRIES TO STOP ME!
CHEEESU-TOOO!!*
ズ
KUSSH

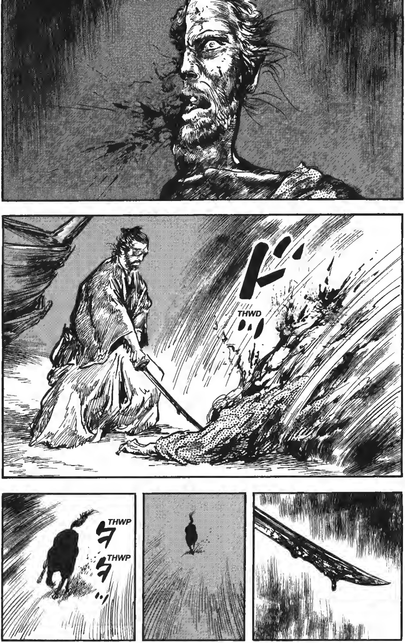
*SEE FOOTNOTES.



其之十四

籾塔（二）

THE FOURTEENTH
TOWER OF LIFE
PART 2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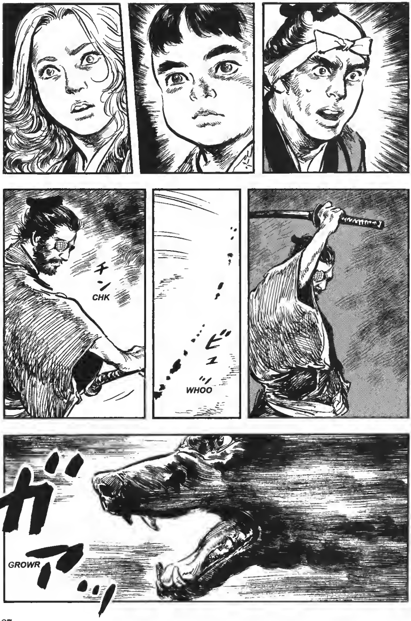
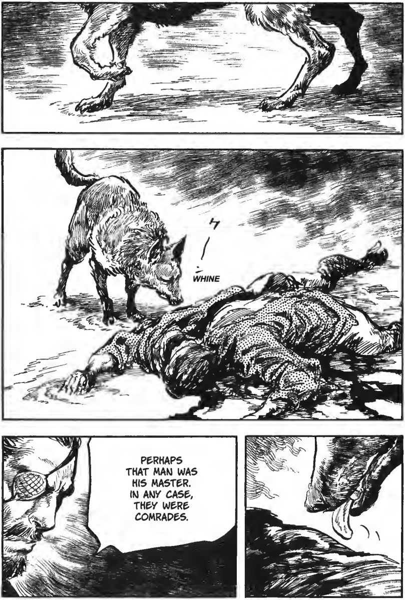
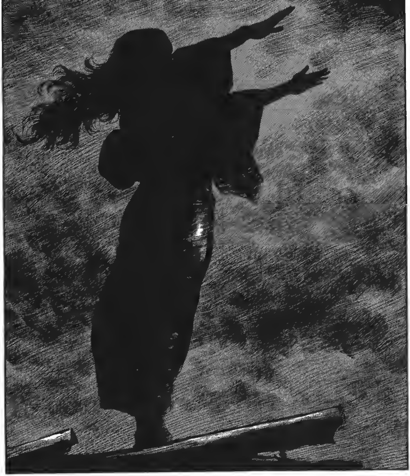
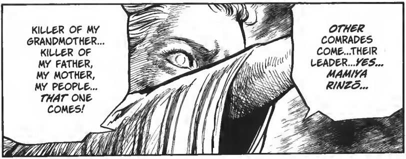
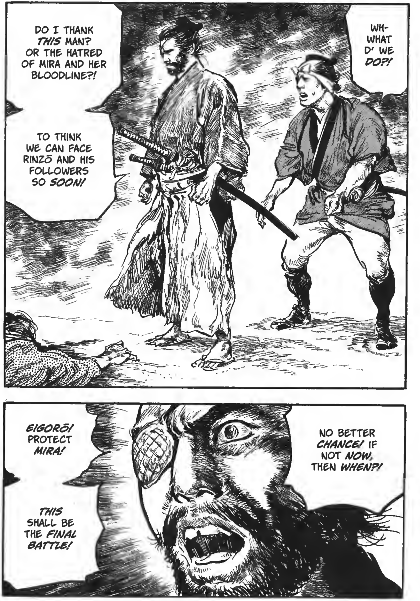
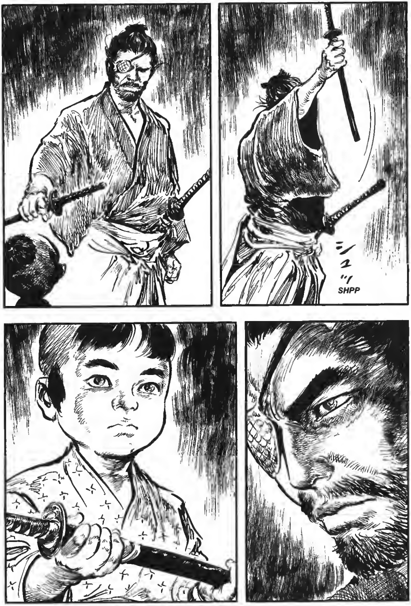

ビュッ
WHOO
チン
CHK
ガアッ
GROWR

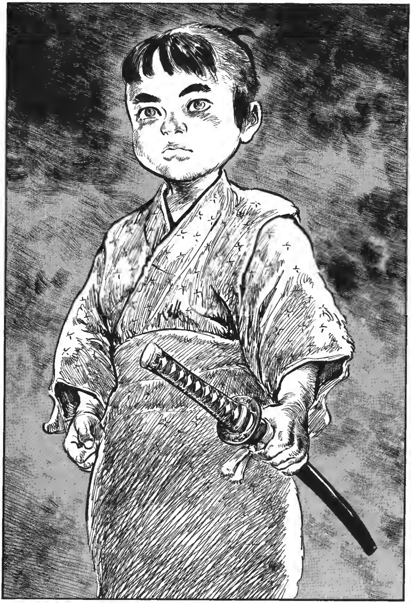

WHINE
PERHAPS THAT MAN WAS HIS MASTER. IN ANY CASE, THEY WERE COMRADES.

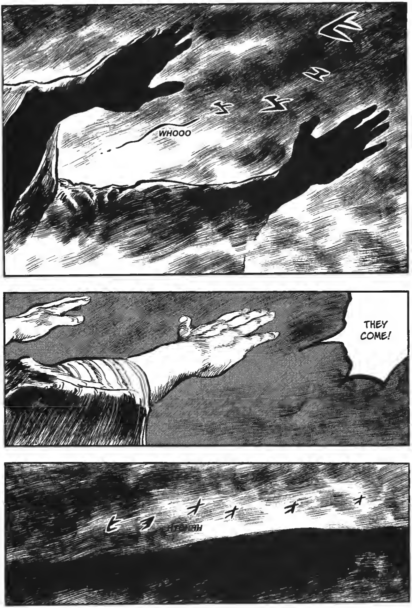


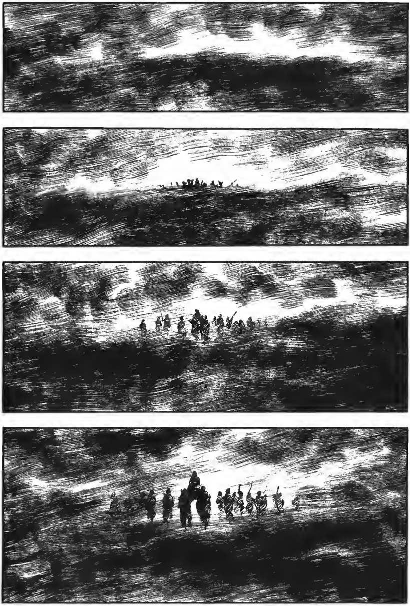

KILLER OF MY GRANDMOTHER... KILLER OF MY FATHER, MY MOTHER, MY PEOPLE... *THAT* ONE COMES!
OTHER COMRADES COME...THEIR LEADER...*YES... MAMIYA RINZŌ...*

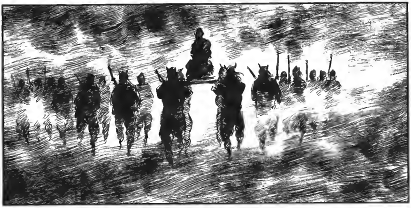

DO I THANK *THIS* MAN? OR THE HATRED OF MIRA AND HER BLOODLINE?!
TO THINK WE CAN FACE RINZŌ AND HIS FOLLOWERS SO *SOON!*
WH- WHAT D' WE *DO?!*
EIGORŌ! PROTECT *MIRA!*
THIS SHALL BE THE *FINAL BATTLE!*
NO BETTER *CHANCE!* IF NOT *NOW,* THEN *WHEN?!*

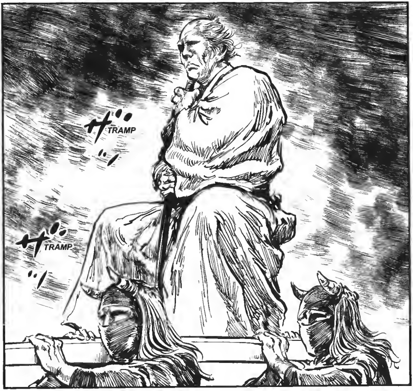

シュッ
SHPP

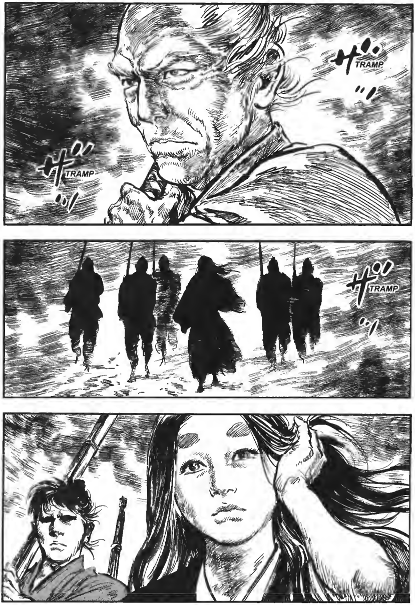



WHOOO
THEY COME!
ヒョオオオオ






TRAMP
TRAMP


ザッ TRAMP
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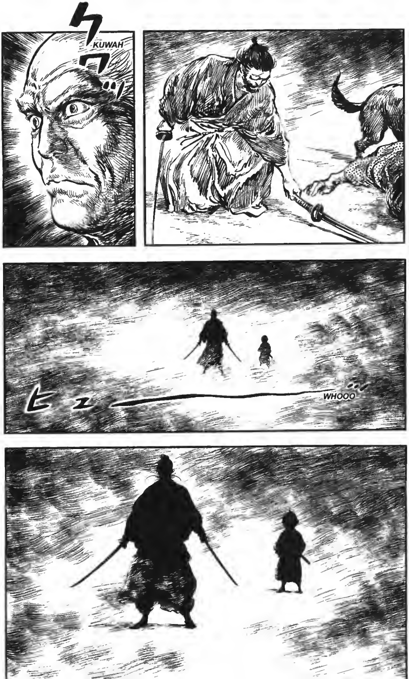
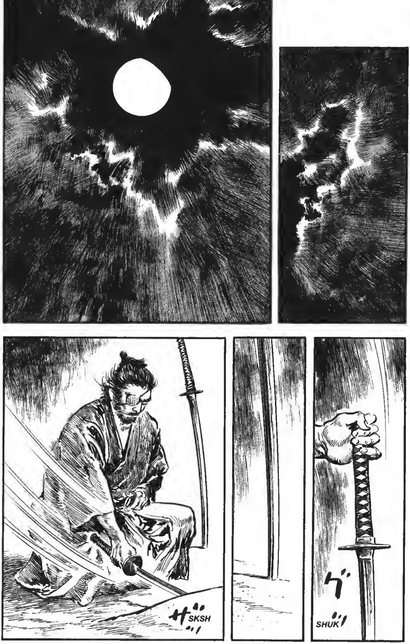
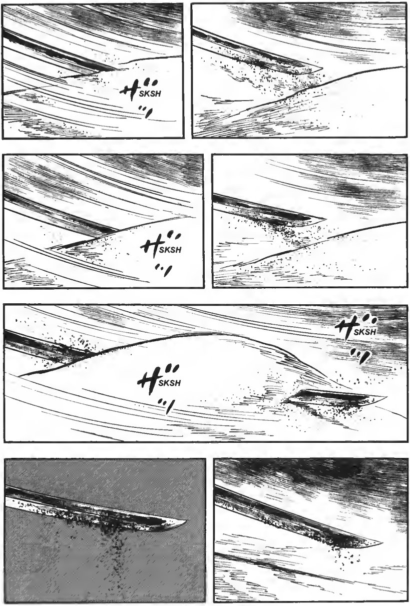
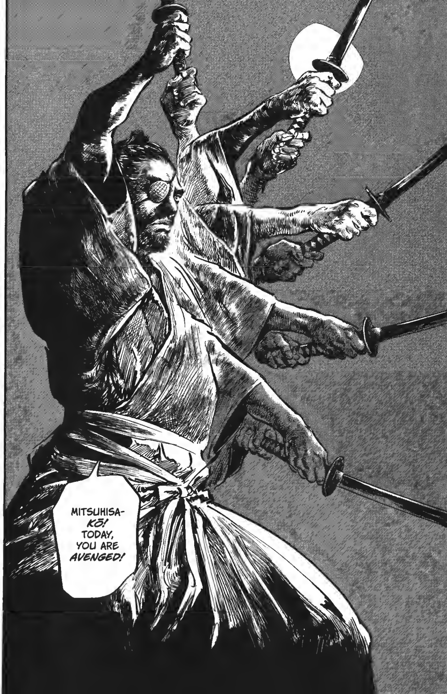
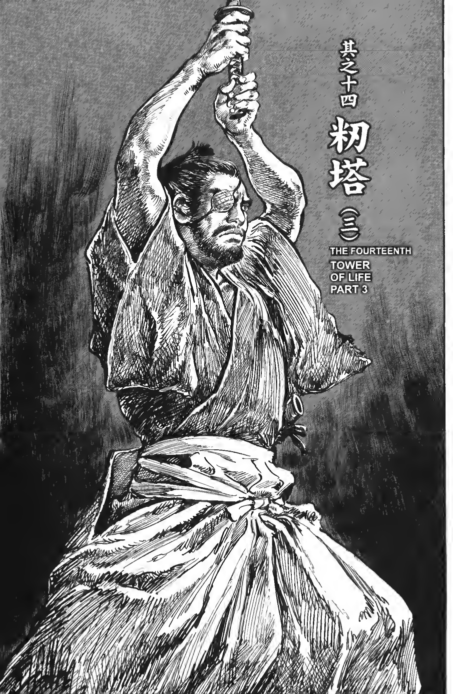

クワッ
KUWAH
ヒュー
WHOOO


グ
SHUK
ザ
SKSH

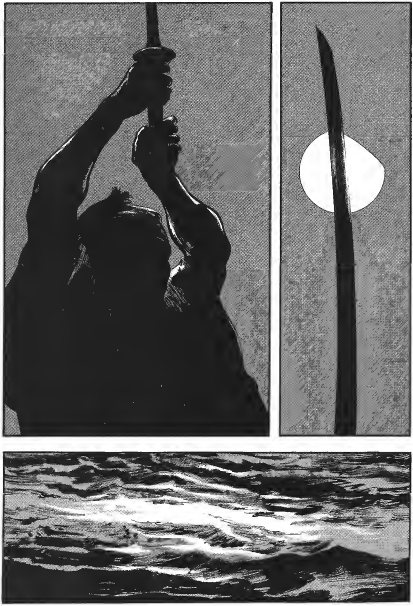

SKSH
SKSH
SKSH
SKSH

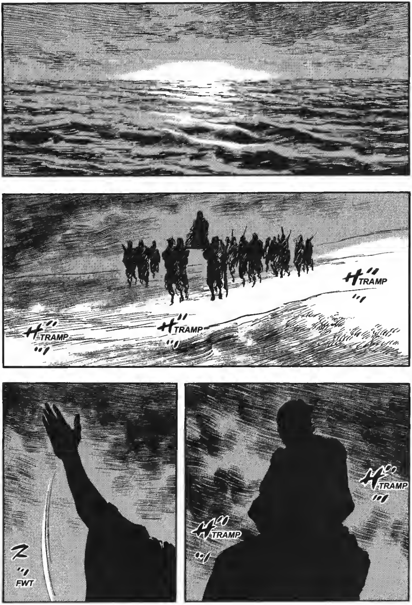

MITSUHISA-*KŌ!* TODAY, YOU ARE *AVENGED!*

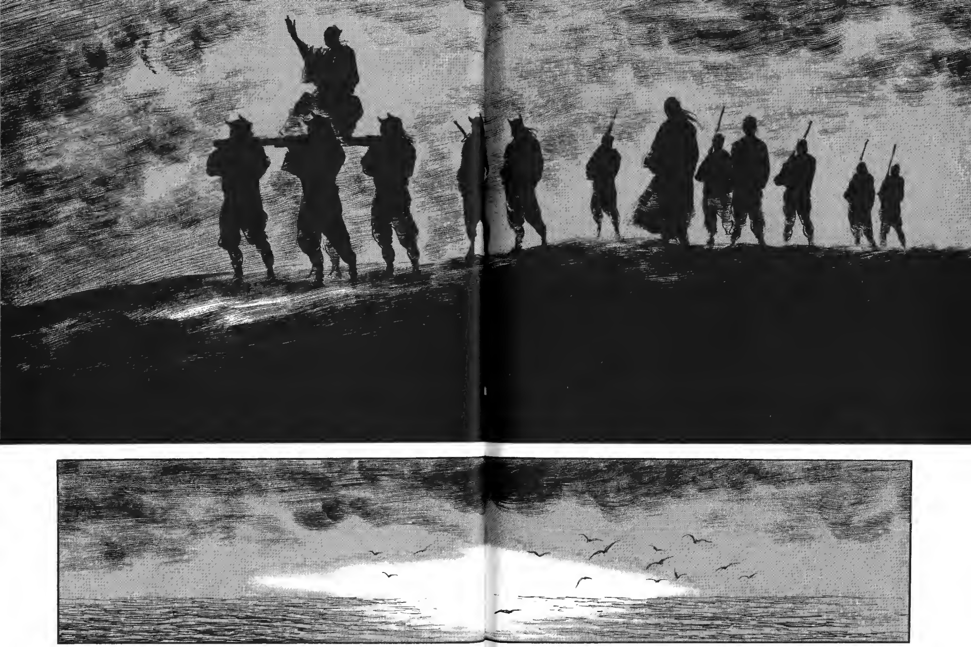


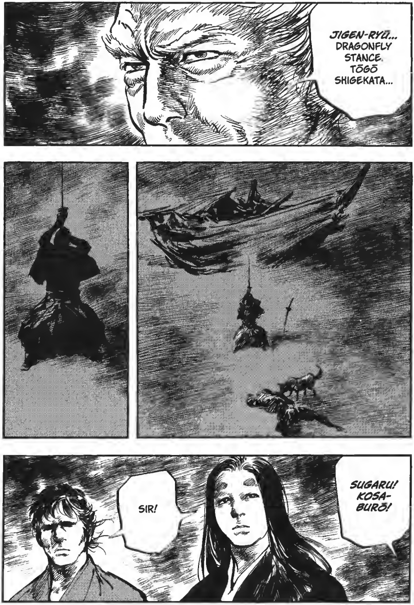
其之十四 籾塔 （三）

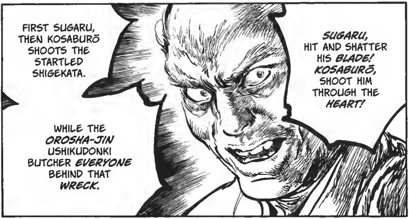
THE FOURTEENTH
TOWER OF LIFE
PART 3

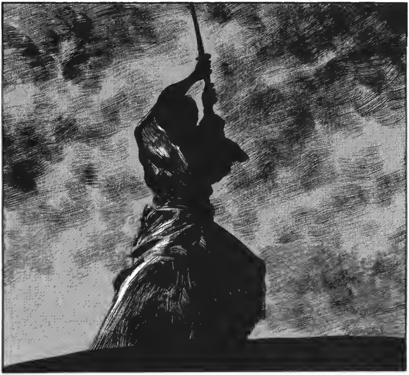


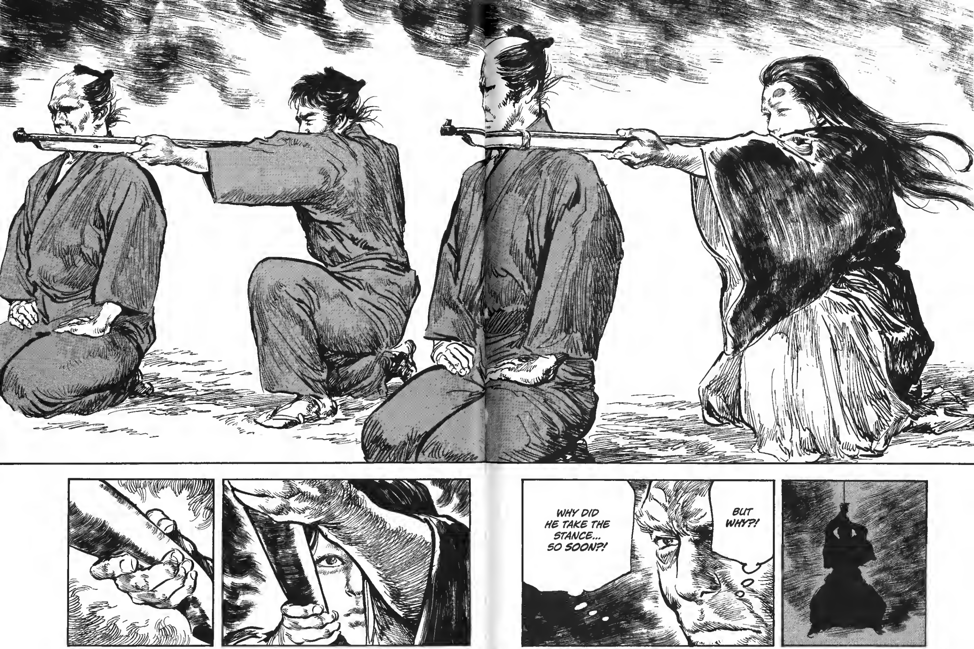

TRAMP
TRAMP
TRAMP
TRAMP
TRAMP
FWT

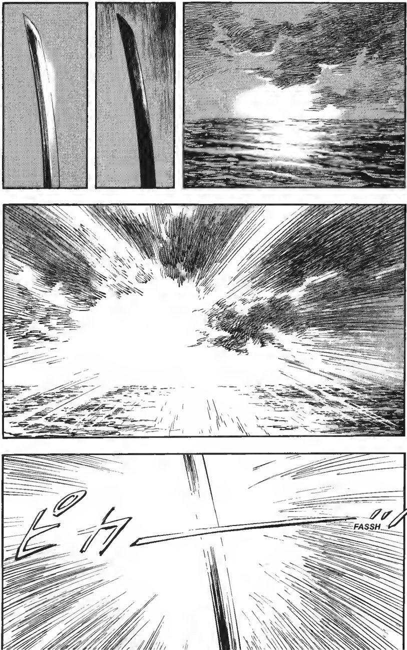


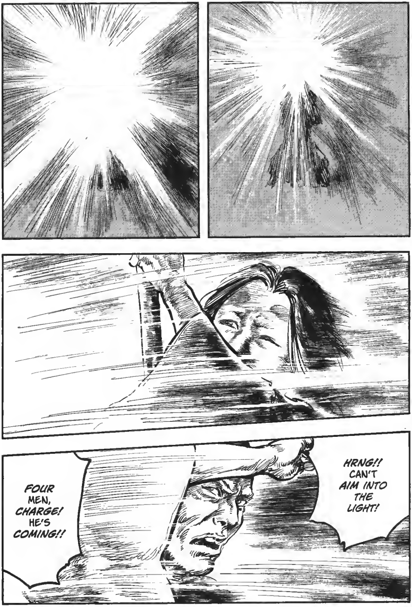

JIGEN-RYŪ... DRAGONFLY STANCE. TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA...
SUGARU! KOSABURŌ!
SIR!

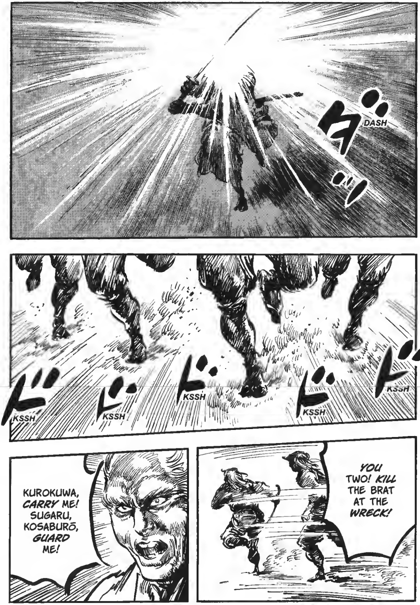

FIRST SUGARU, THEN KOSABURŌ SHOOTS THE STARTLED SHIGEKATA.
SUGARU, HIT AND SHATTER HIS *BLADE! KOSABURŌ,* SHOOT HIM THROUGH THE *HEART!*
WHILE THE *OROSHA-JIN* USHIKUDONKI BUTCHER *EVERYONE* BEHIND THAT *WRECK.*

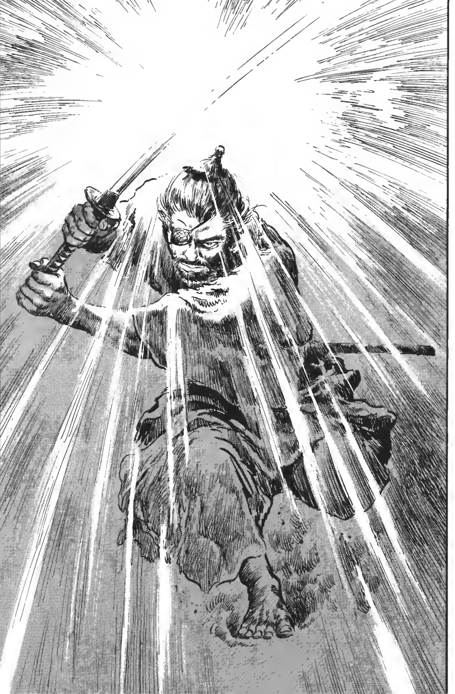


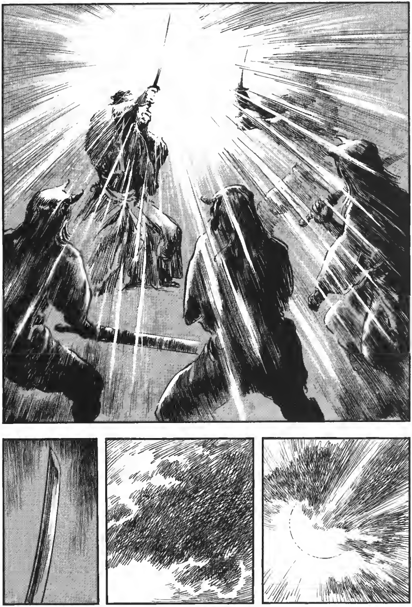

BUT WHY?!
WHY DID HE TAKE THE STANCE... SO SOON?!

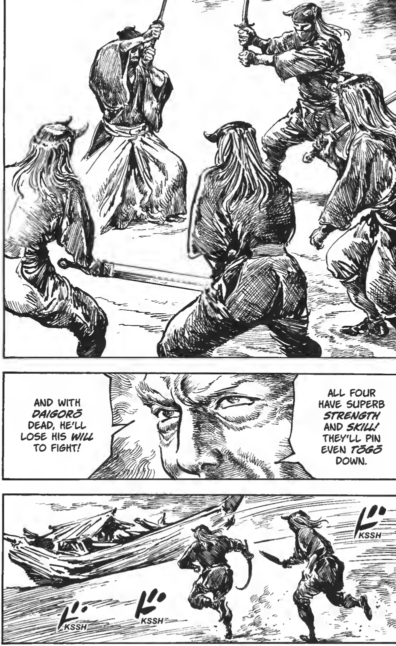

ピカーッ
FASSH

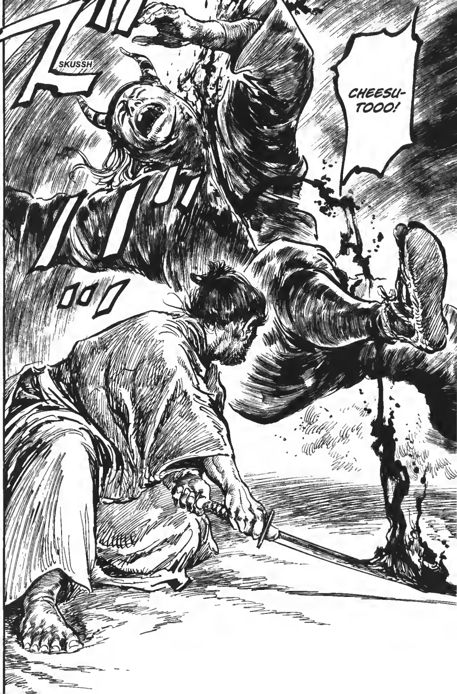

HRNG!! CAN'T AIM INTO THE LIGHT!
FOUR MEN, CHARGE! HE'S COMING!!

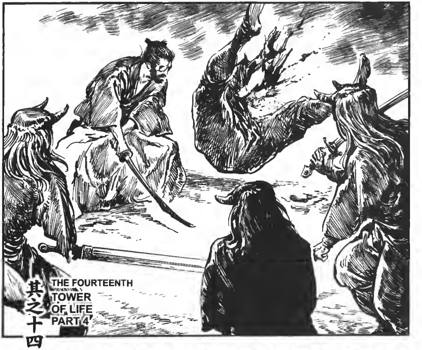

ダッ
DASH
ド
KSSH
ド
KSSH
ド
KSSH
ド
KSSH
ド
KSSH
YOU TWO! *KILL* THE BRAT AT THE *WRECK!*
KUROKUWA, *CARRY* ME! SUGARU, KOSABURŌ, *GUARD* ME!






ALL FOUR HAVE SUPERB *STRENGTH* AND *SKILL!* THEY'LL PIN EVEN *TŌGŌ* DOWN.
AND WITH *DAIGORŌ* DEAD, HE'LL LOSE HIS *WILL* TO FIGHT!
ド KSSH
ド KSSH
ド KSSH

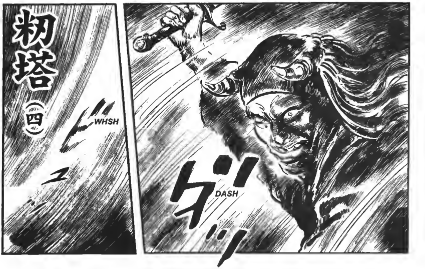

CHEESU-TOOO!
SKUSSH

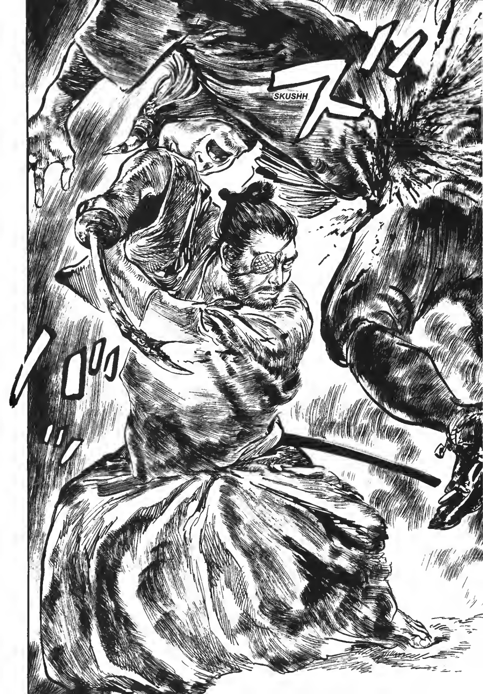


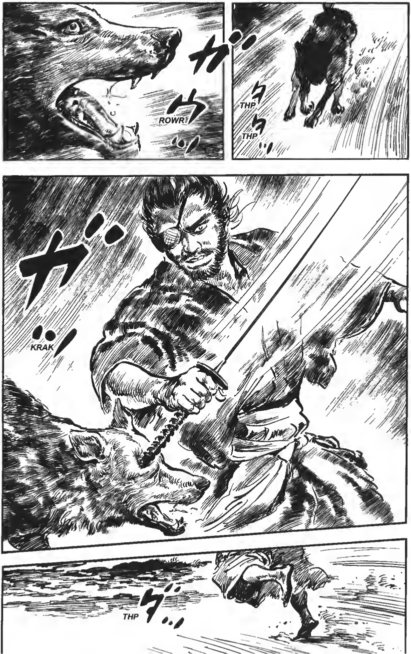
其之十四

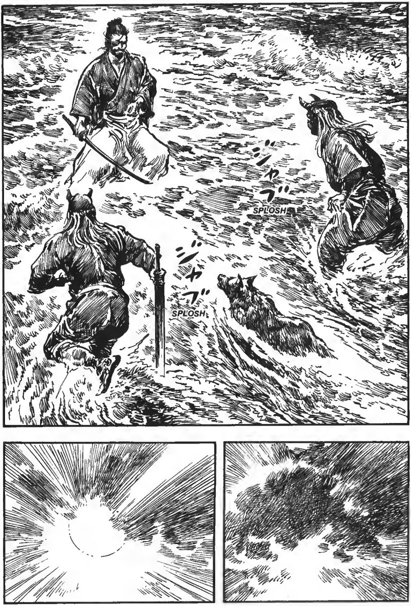
THE FOURTEENTH TOWER OF LIFE PART 4

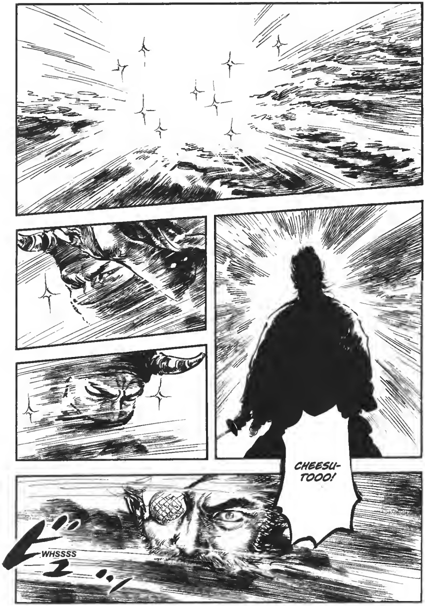
籾塔（四）

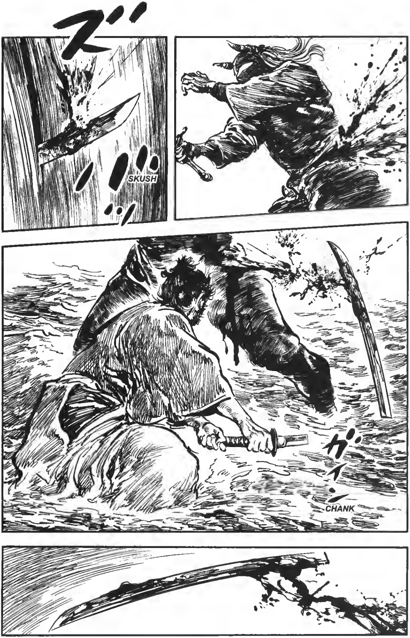

ダッ
DASH
ビュ
WHSH

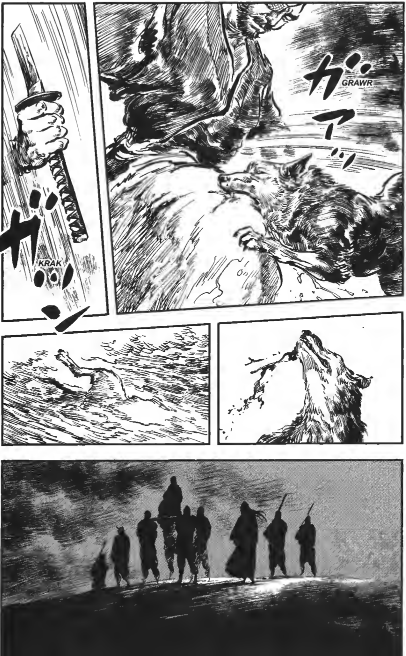

ズ
SKUSHH

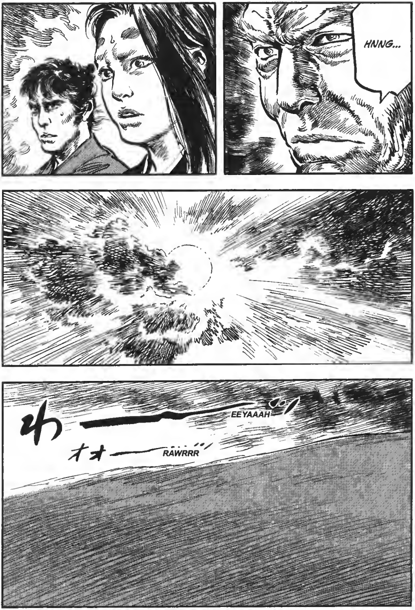

タ THP
タッ THP
ガウッ ROWR
ガッ KRAK
ダッ THP

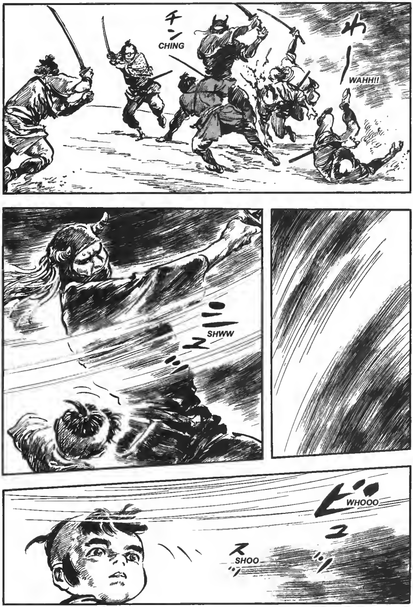

ジャブ
SPLOSH
ジャブ
SPLOSH

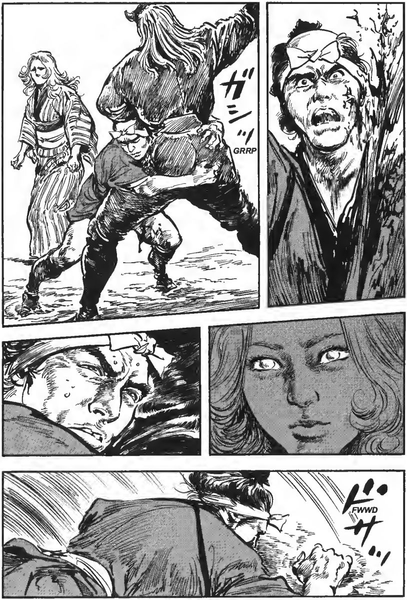

CHEESU-TOOO!
WHSSSS

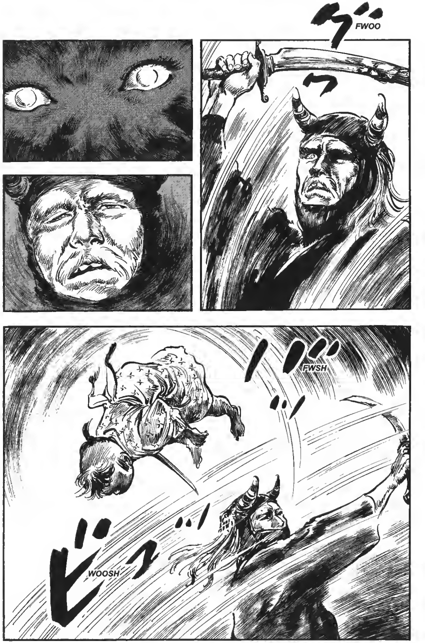

ズ
SKUSH
ガィ
CHANK

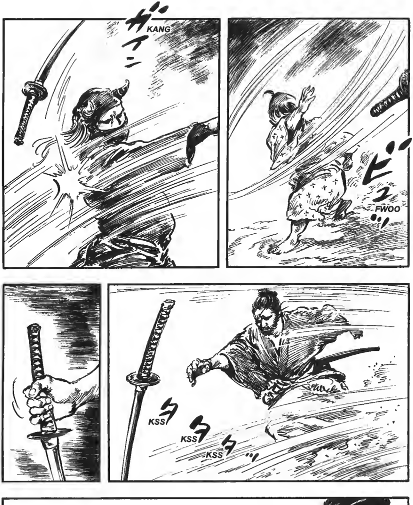

ガアッ
GRAWR
ザッン
KRAK

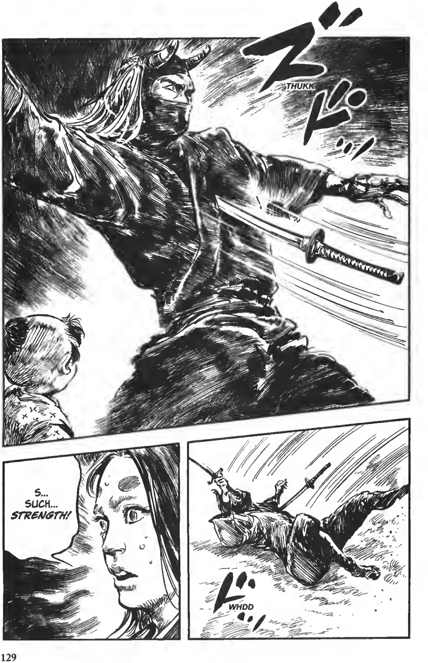

HNNG...
わ——
EEYAAAH
オオ——
RAWRRR

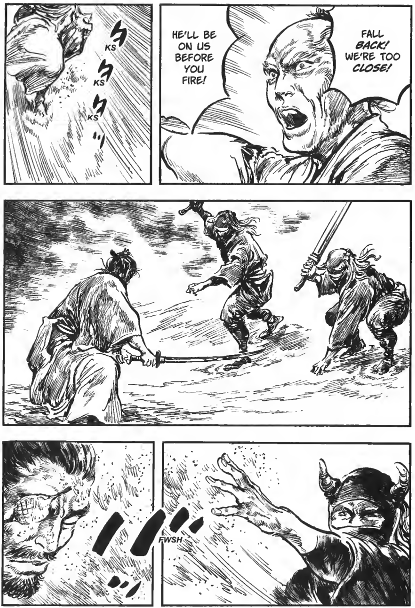

わー
WAHH!!
チン
CHING
シュッ
SHWW
ビュッ
WHOOO
スッ
SHOO

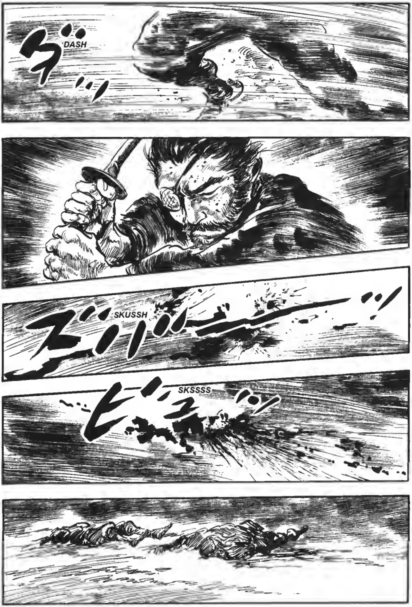

ガシッ
GRRP
ドサッ
FWWD

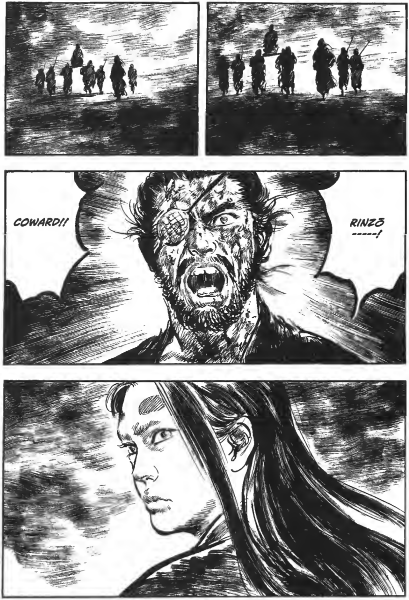

FWOO
FWSH
WOOSH


ビュッ
FWOO
ガイン
KANG
タ
KSS
タ
KSS
タッ
KSS
ビュッ
FWPP


ズドッ
THUKK
S... SUCH... *STRENGTH!*
ドッ
WHDD

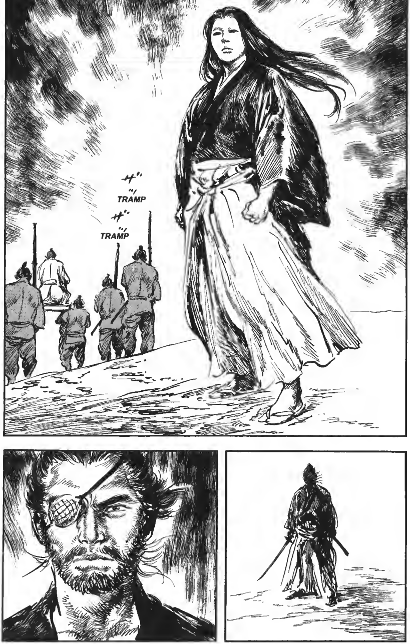

FALL *BACK!* WE'RE TOO *CLOSE!*
HE'LL BE ON US BEFORE YOU FIRE!
KS
KS
KS
FWSH

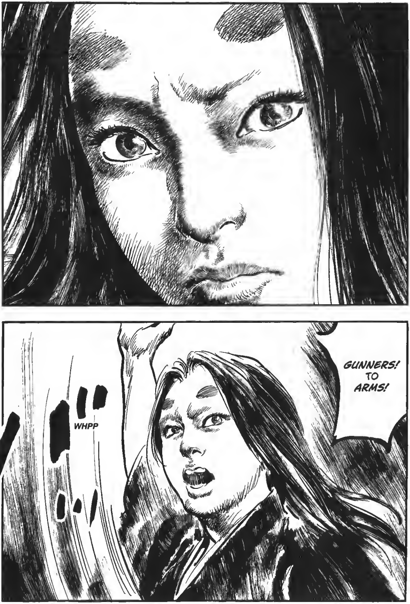

ダッ
DASH
ズバーーッ!
SKUSSH
SKSSSS

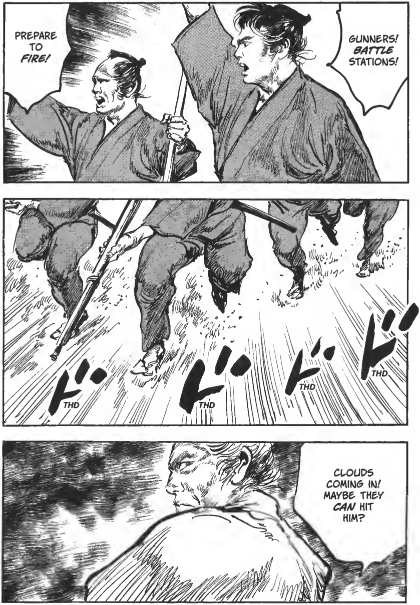

COWARD!!
RINZŌ -----!

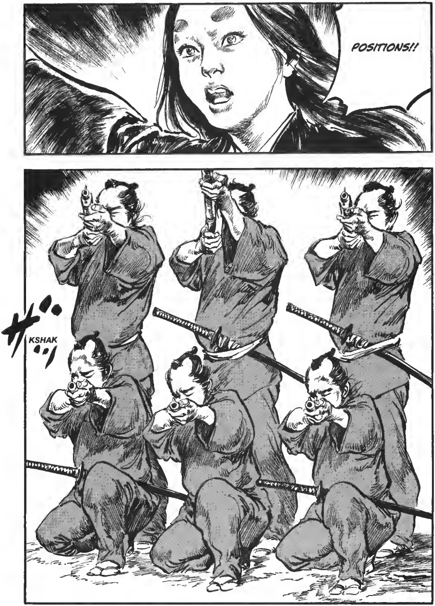
其之十四 籾塔（五）

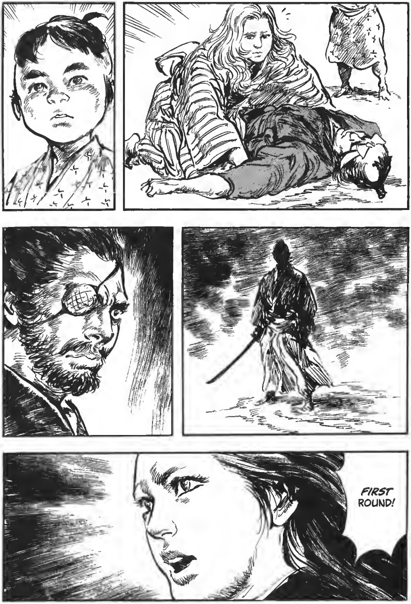
THE FOURTEENTH TOWER OF LIFE PART 5

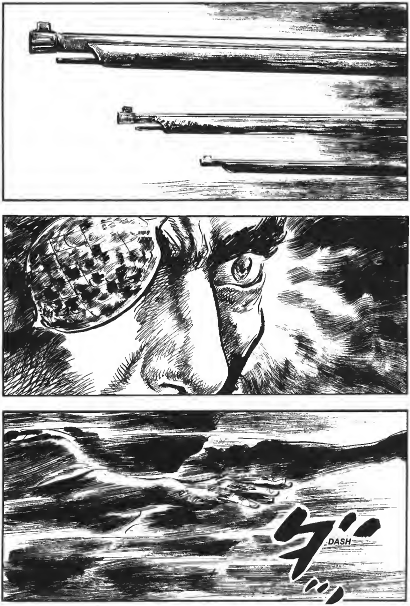

ザッ
TRAMP
ザッ
TRAMP

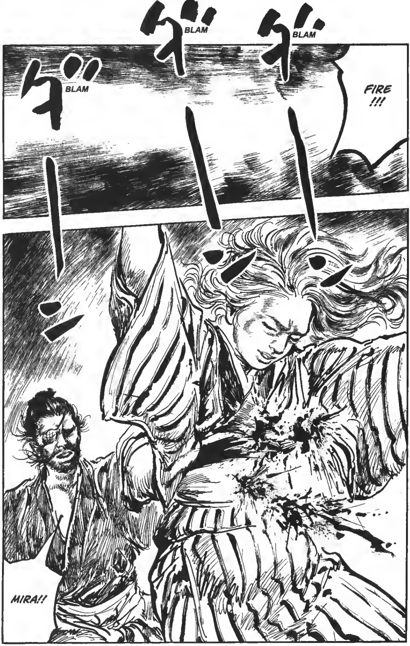

WHPP
GUNNERS! TO ARMS!

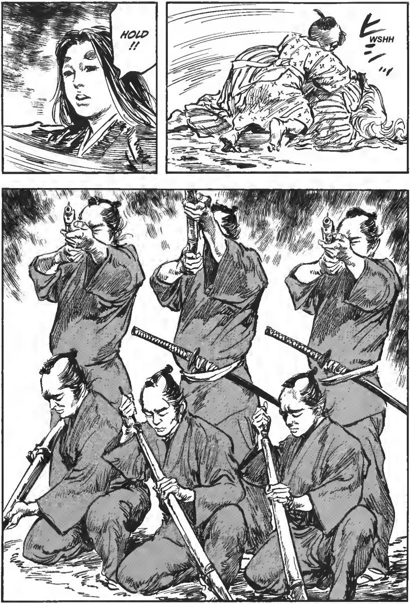

GUNNERS! *BATTLE* STATIONS!
PREPARE TO *FIRE!*
ド THD
ド THD
ド THD
ド THD
CLOUDS COMING IN! MAYBE THEY *CAN* HIT HIM?

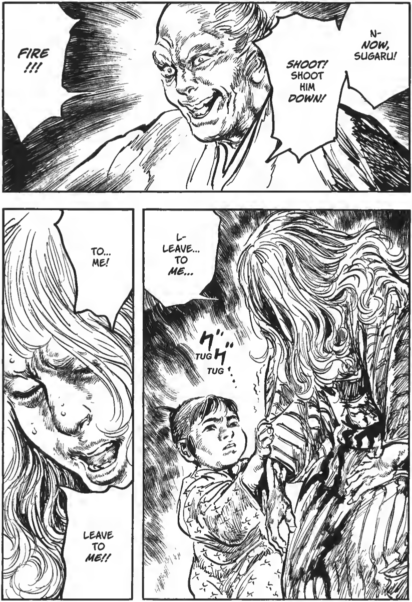

POSITIONS!!
ザッ
KSHAK

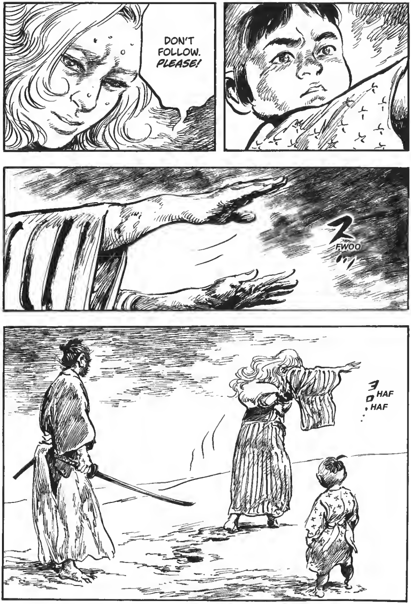

FIRST ROUND!

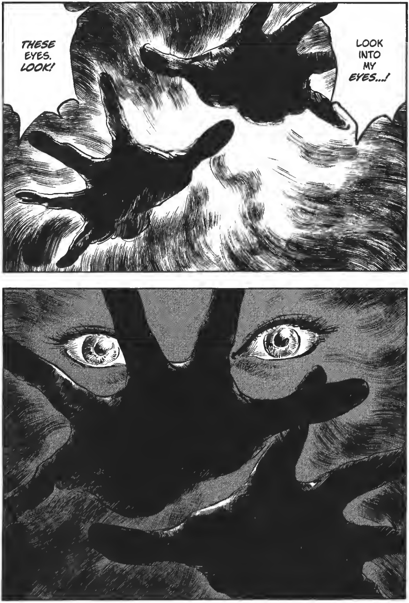

ダッ
DASH

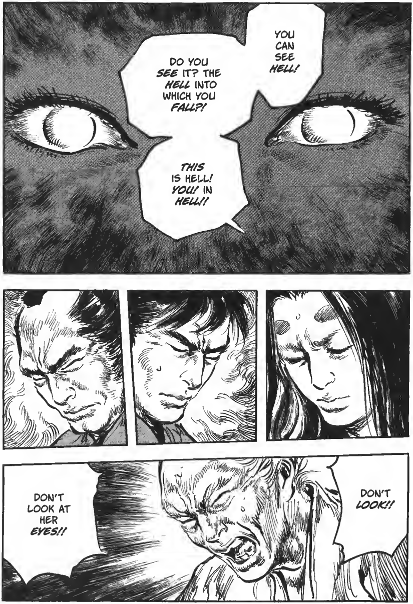

FIRE !!!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
MIRA!!

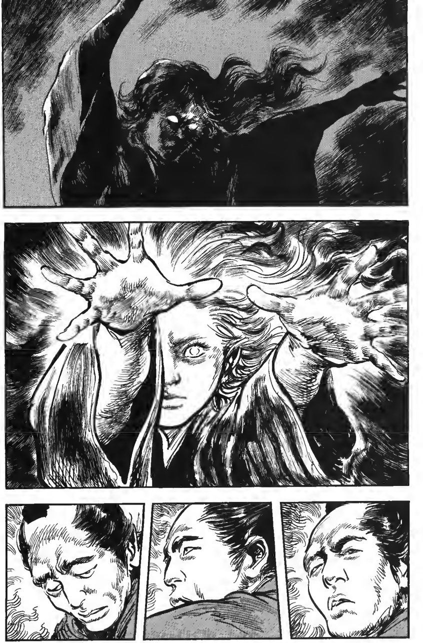

HOLD !!
WSHH

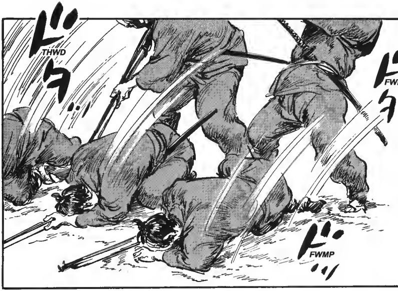

N- NOW, SUGARU!
SHOOT! SHOOT HIM DOWN!
FIRE !!!
L- LEAVE... TO ME...
グ TUG
グ TUG
TO... ME!
LEAVE TO ME!!

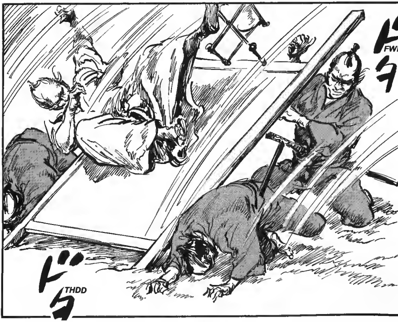

DON'T FOLLOW. *PLEASE!*
ス
FWOO
ヨロ
HAF
HAF

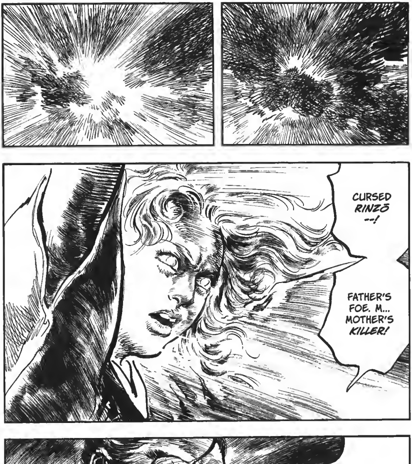

LOOK INTO MY *EYES...!*
THESE EYES. *LOOK!*


YOU CAN SEE *HELL!*
DO YOU *SEE* IT? THE *HELL* INTO WHICH YOU *FALL?!*
THIS IS HELL! *YOU!* IN *HELL!!*
DON'T *LOOK!!*
DON'T LOOK AT HER *EYES!!*




ドタ
FWMP
ドッ
FWMP
ドタッ
THWD


ドタ
FWMP
ドタ
THDD


CURSED *RINZŌ* --!
FATHER'S FOE. M... MOTHER'S *KILLER!*
MIRAAA !!

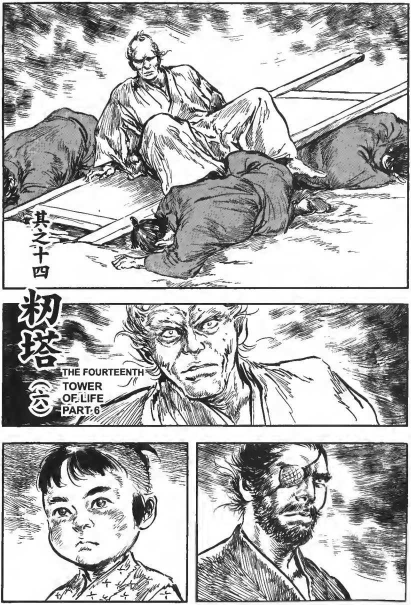
其之十四

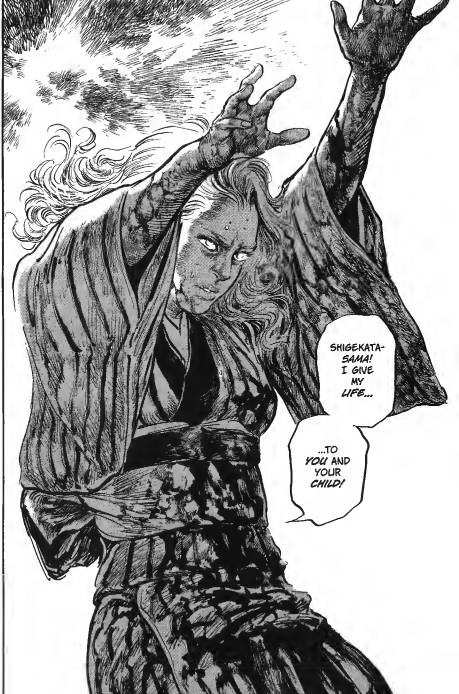
籾塔（六）

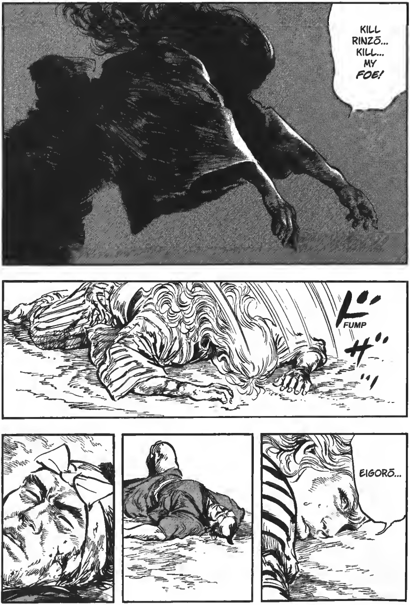
THE FOURTEENTH

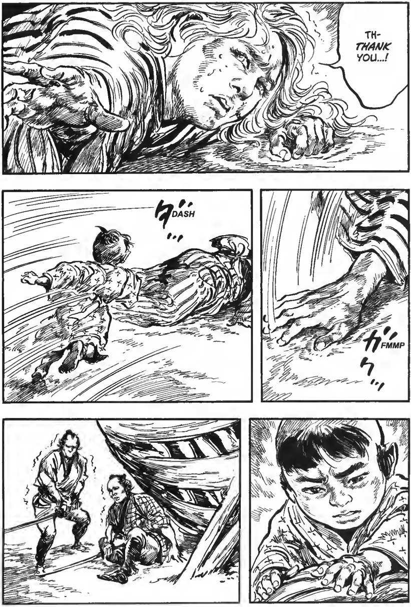
TOWER OF LIFE

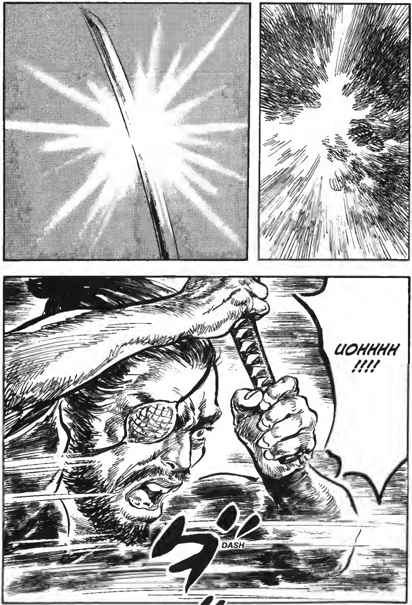
PART 6

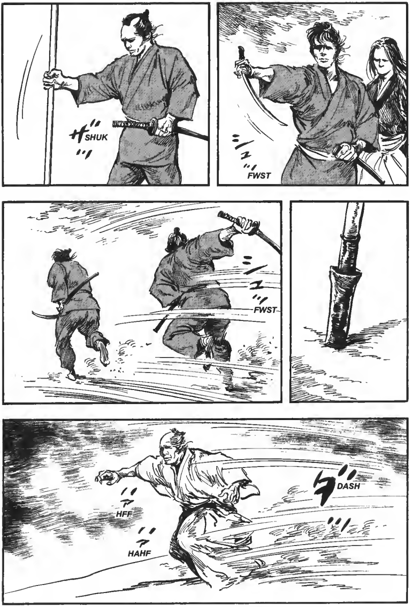


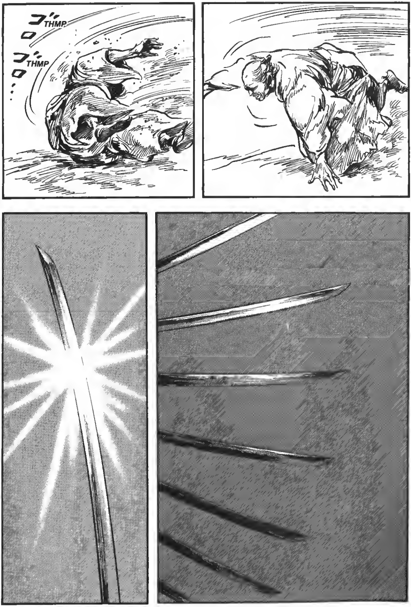

SHIGEKATA-*SAMA!* I GIVE MY *LIFE...*
...TO *YOU* AND YOUR *CHILD!*

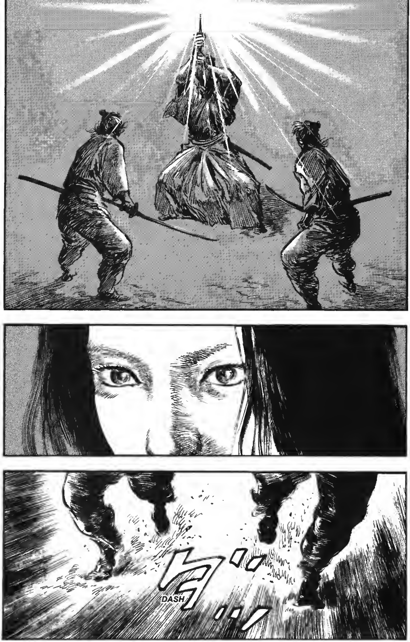

KILL RINZŌ... KILL... MY *FOE!*
ドッ
FUMP
ザッ
EIGORŌ...

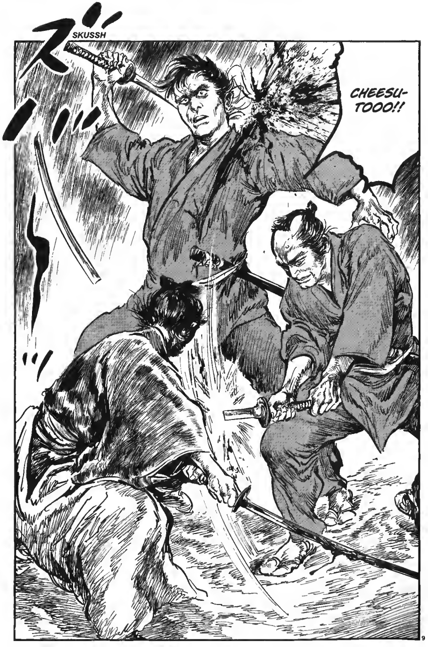

TH- THANK YOU...!
ダッ DASH
ガクッ FMMP

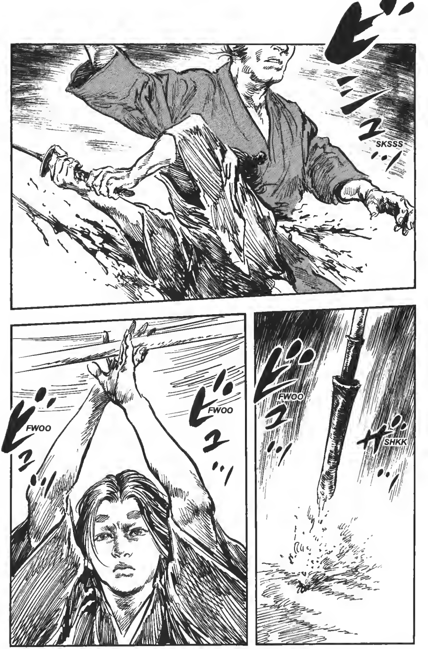

UOHHHH
!!!!
DASH

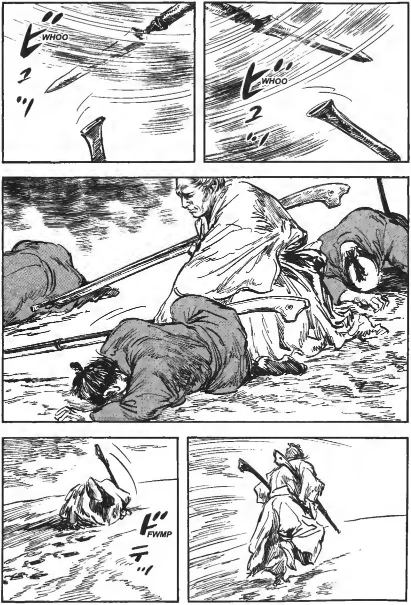

SHUK
FWST
FWST
DASH
HFF
HAHF

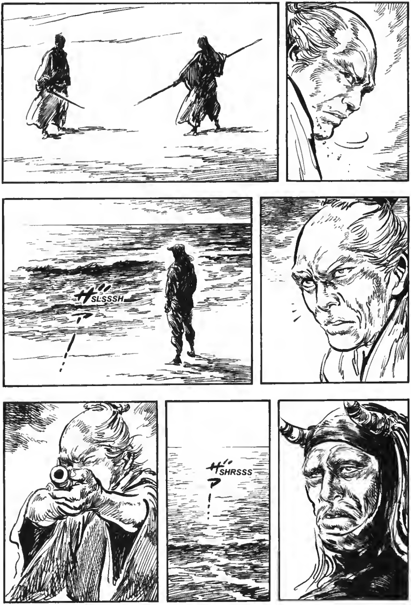

ゴロ THMP
ゴロ THMP

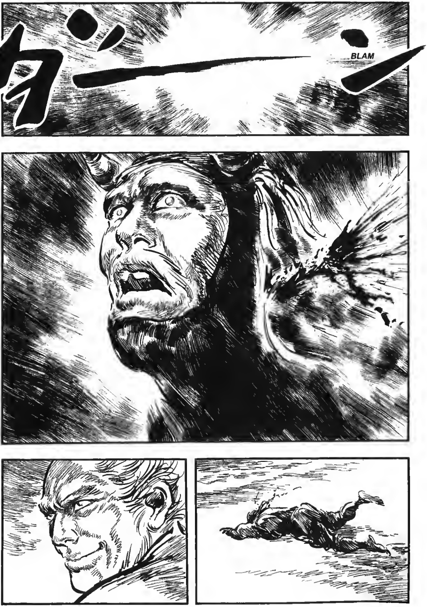

ダッ
DASH

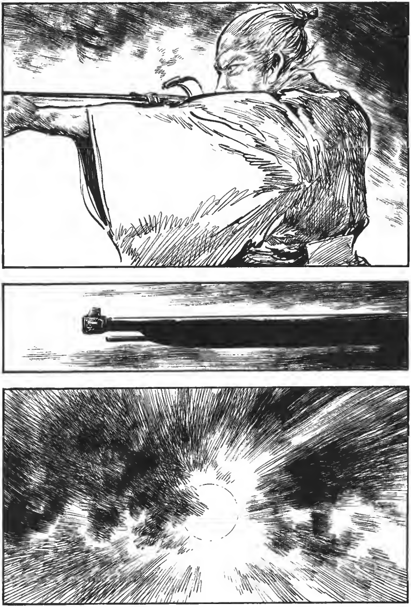

ズ
SKUSSH
CHEESU-TOOO!!
9

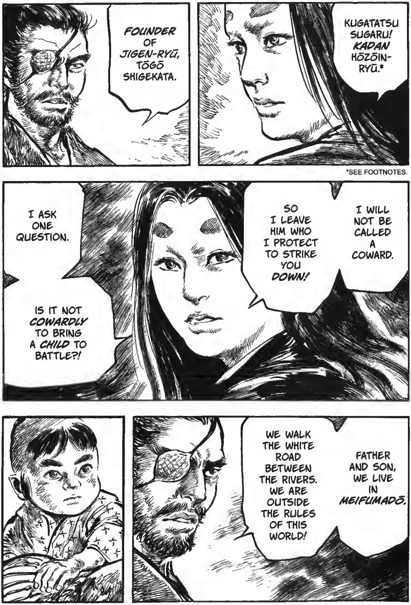

ビシュ..!
SKSSS
ビュ..!
FWOO
ビュ..!
FWOO
ビュ..!
FWOO
ザ..!
SHKK


ビュッ
WHOO
ビュッ
WHOO
ドテッ
FWMP

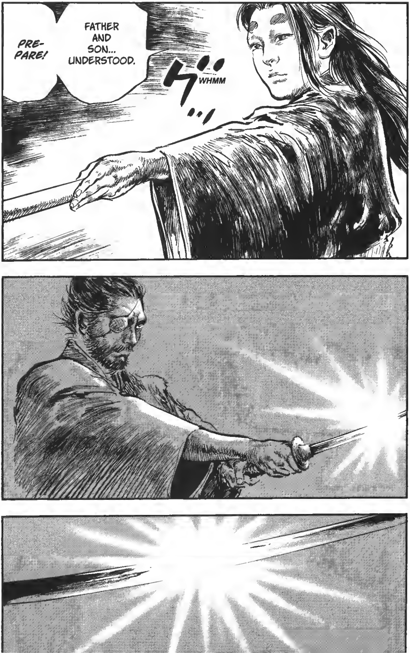

ザァー… SLSSSH
ザァー… SHRSSS

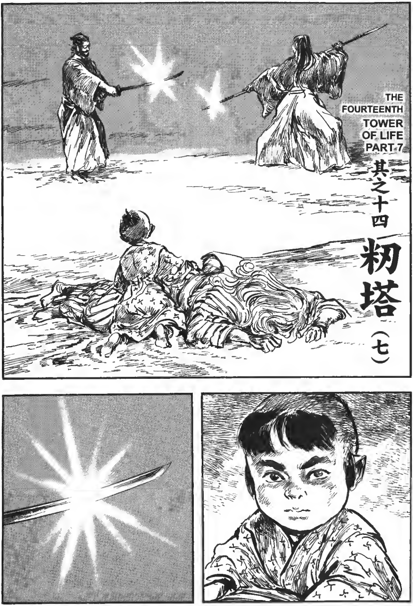

ダーン
BLAM




FOUNDER OF *JIGEN-RYŪ,* TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA.
KUGATATSU SUGARU! *KADAN* HŌZŌIN-RYŪ.*
I ASK ONE QUESTION.
IS IT NOT *COWARDLY* TO BRING A *CHILD* TO BATTLE?!
SO I LEAVE HIM WHO I PROTECT TO STRIKE YOU *DOWN!*
I WILL NOT BE CALLED A COWARD.
WE WALK THE WHITE ROAD BETWEEN THE RIVERS. WE ARE OUTSIDE THE RULES OF THIS WORLD!
FATHER AND SON, WE LIVE IN *MEIFUMADŌ.*

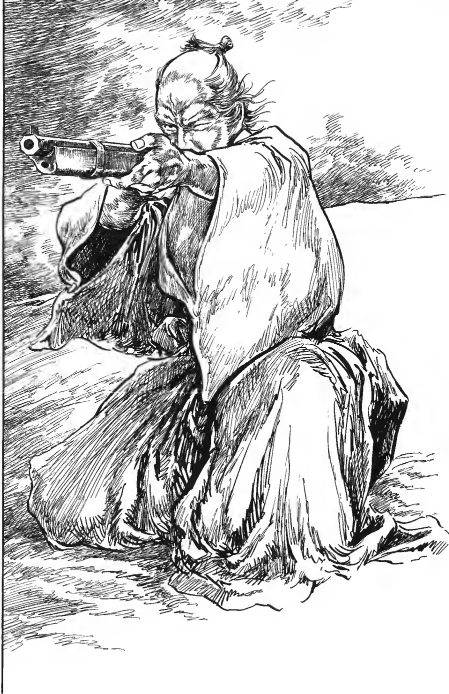
*SEE FOOTNOTES.

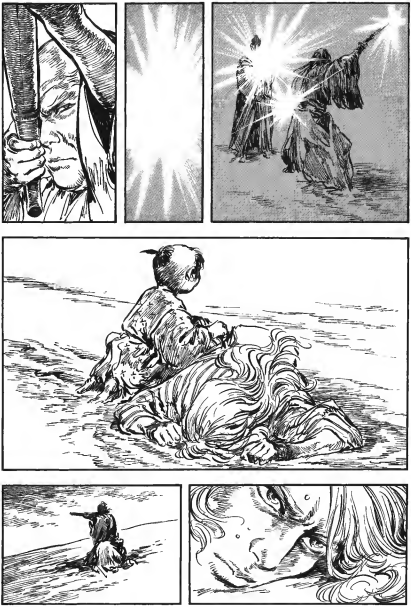

FATHER AND SON... UNDERSTOOD.
PRE-PARE!
WHMM

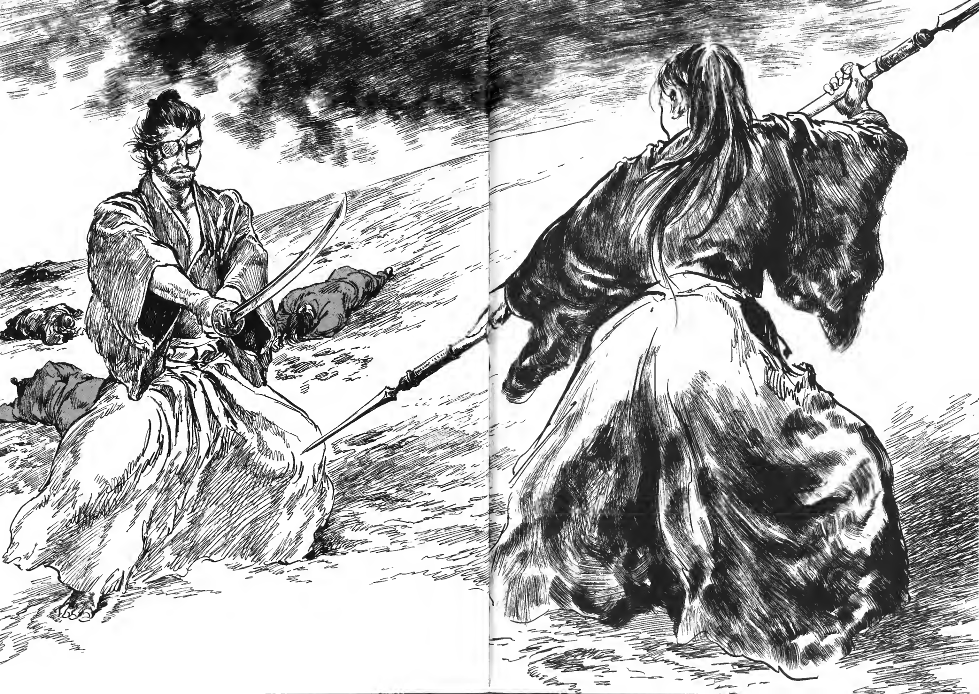


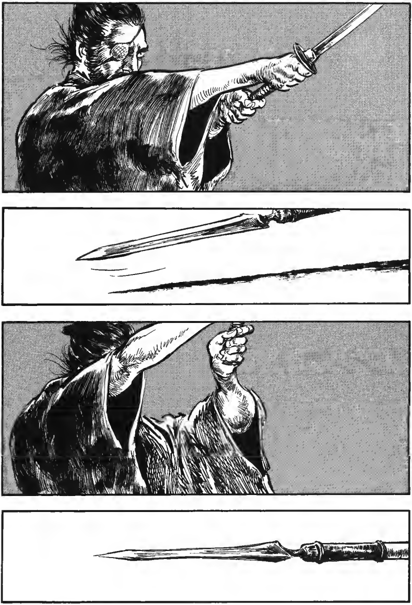
THE FOURTEENTH TOWER OF LIFE PART 7

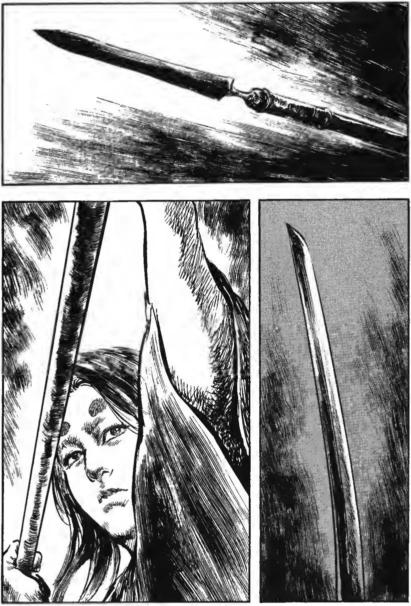
其之十四 籾塔（七）

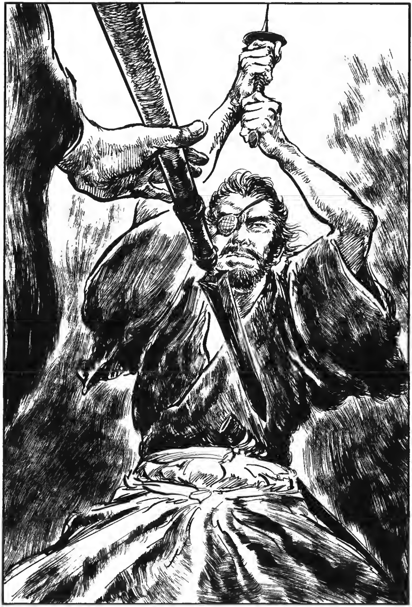


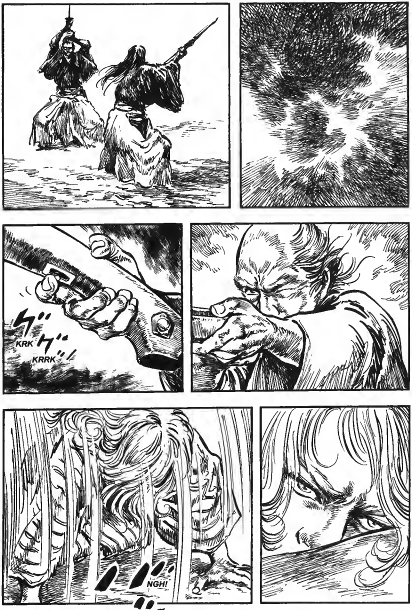


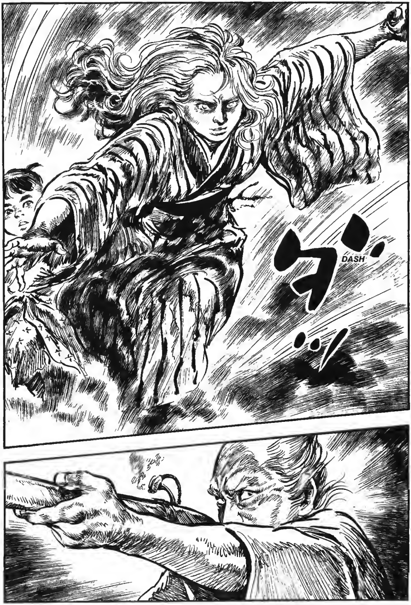


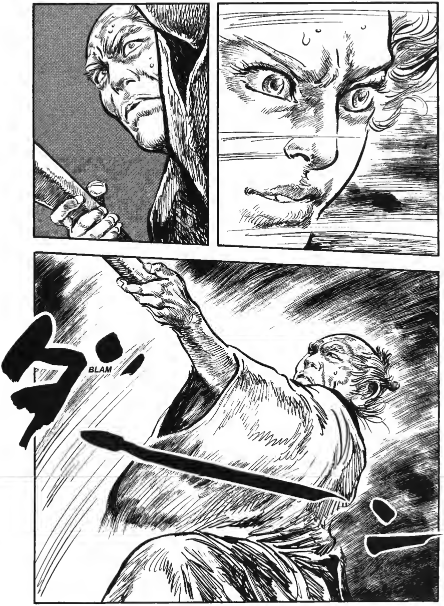


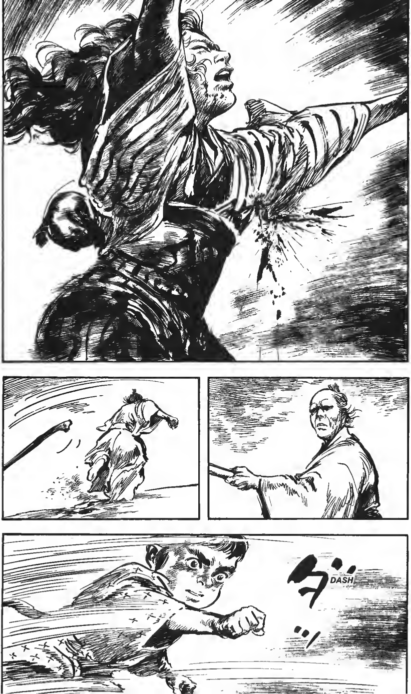


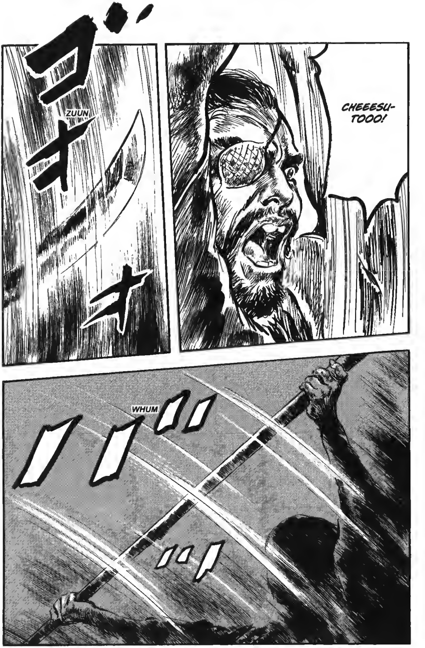


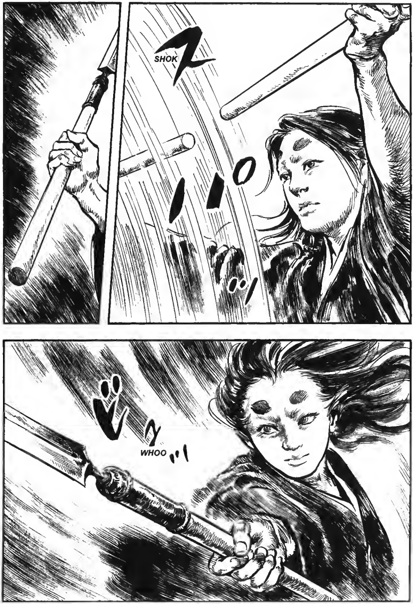

グ
KRK
グッ
KRRK
NGH!

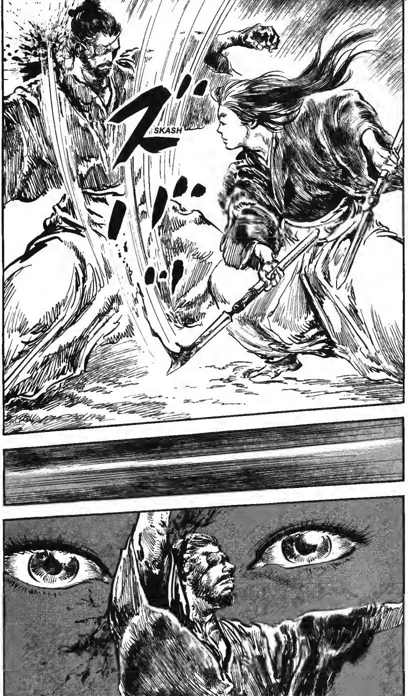

ダッ
DASH

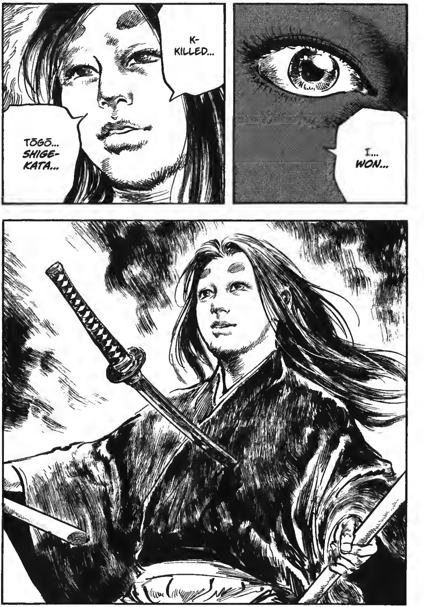

BLAM


ダッ
DASH


CHEEESU-TOOO!
ゴオオ
ZUUN
WHUM


SHOK
WHOO


ズバッ
SKASH

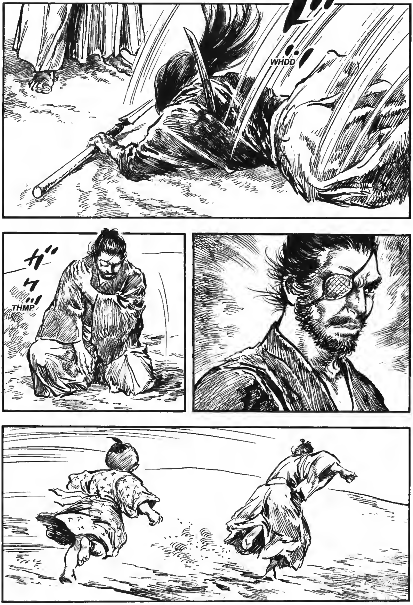

K-KILLED...
TŌGŌ... SHIGE-KATA...
I... WON...

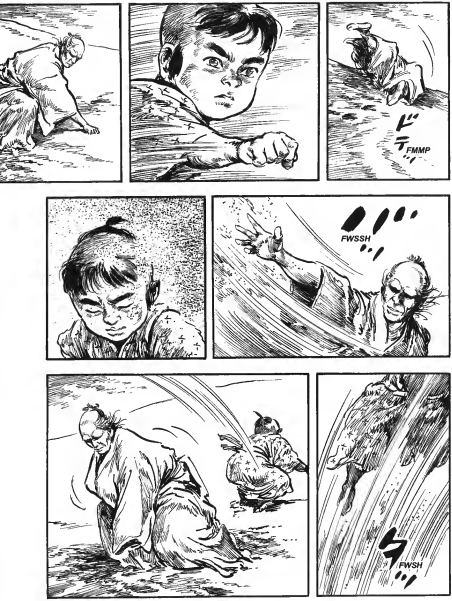
其之十四

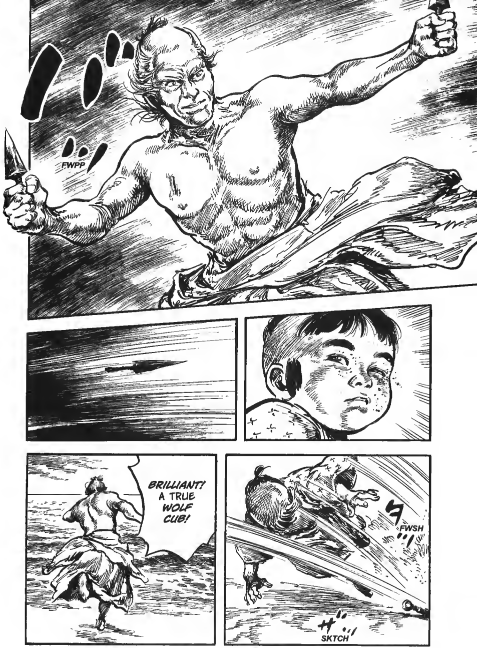
籾塔

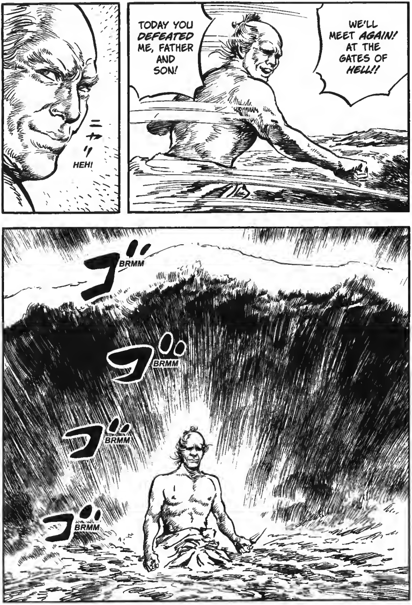
（八）

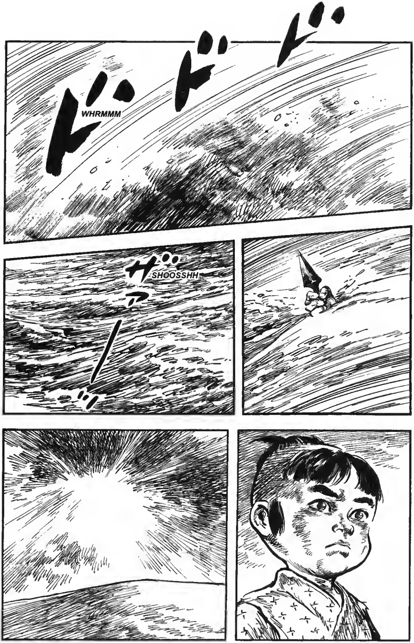
THE FOURTEENTH
TOWER OF LIFE
PART 8

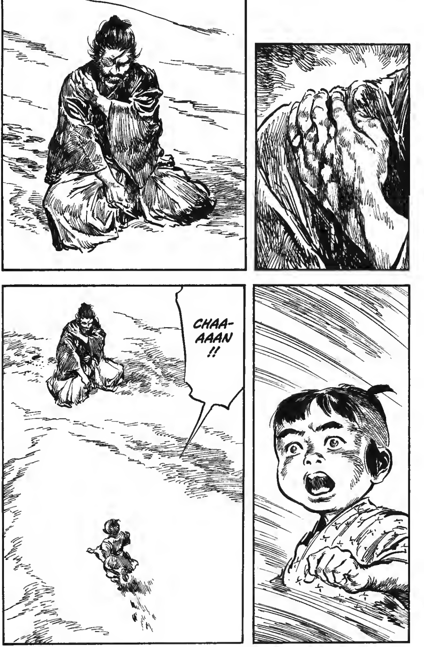

ドッ
WHDD
ガクッ
THMP

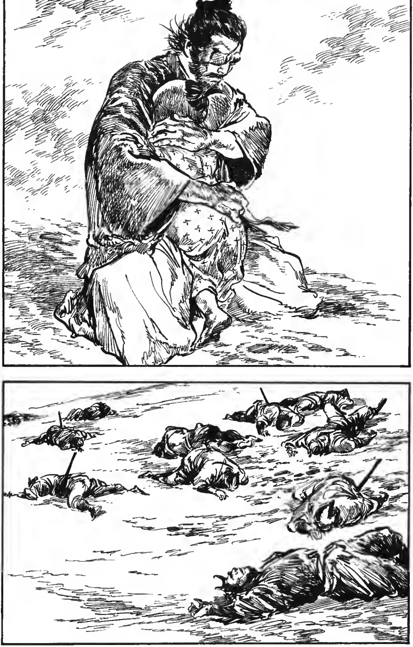

ドテ
FMMP
FWSSH
FWSH

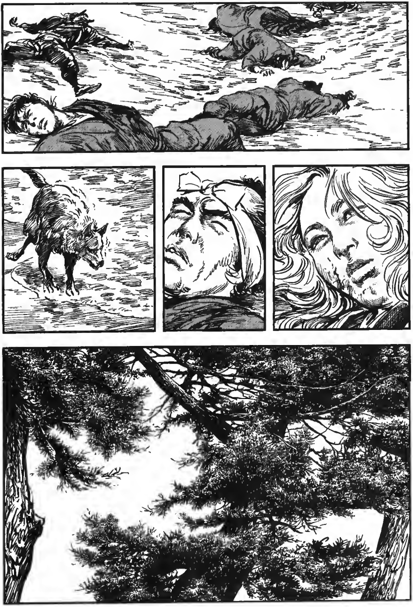

FWPP
BRILLIANT! A TRUE *WOLF CUB!*
FWSH
SKTCH

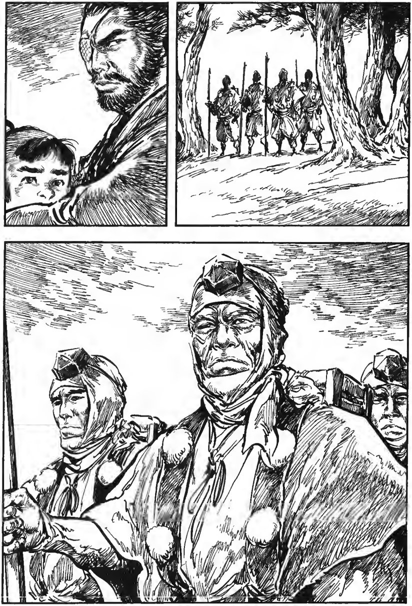

ニヤリ
HEH!
TODAY YOU *DEFEATED* ME, FATHER AND SON!
WE'LL MEET *AGAIN!* AT THE GATES OF *HELL!!*
ゴ BRMM
ゴ BRMM
ゴ BRMM
ゴ BRMM

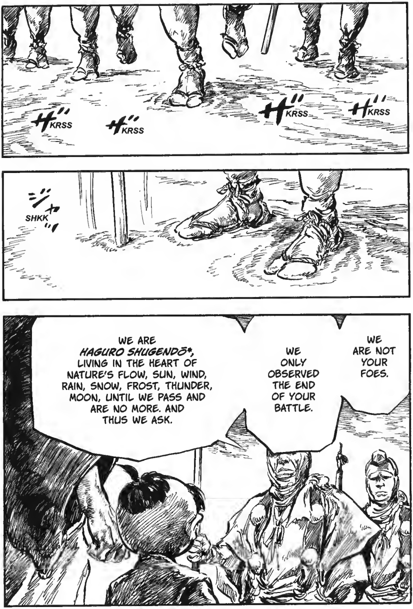

ドドド
WHRMMM
ザァーッ
SHOOSSHH


CHAA-AAAN !!

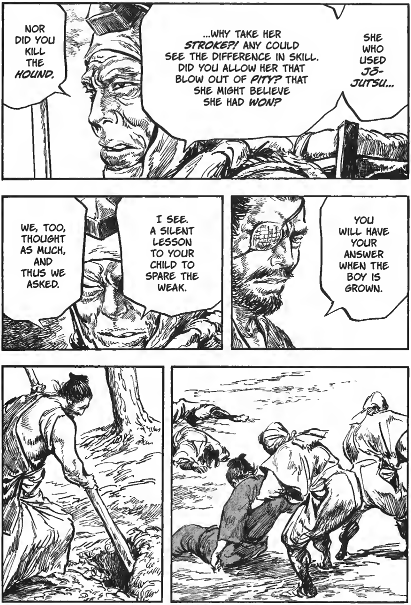


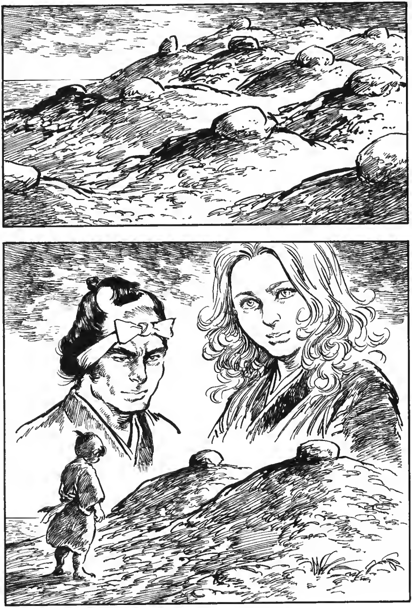


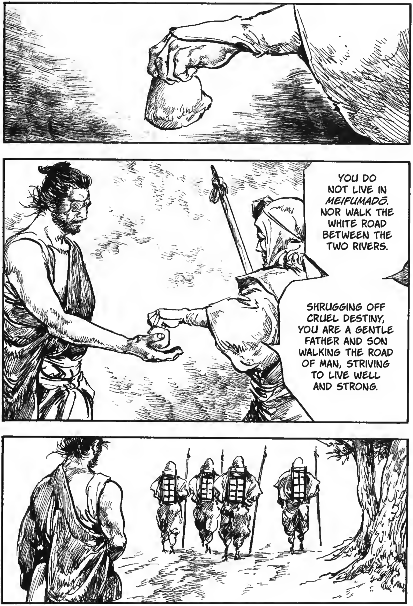


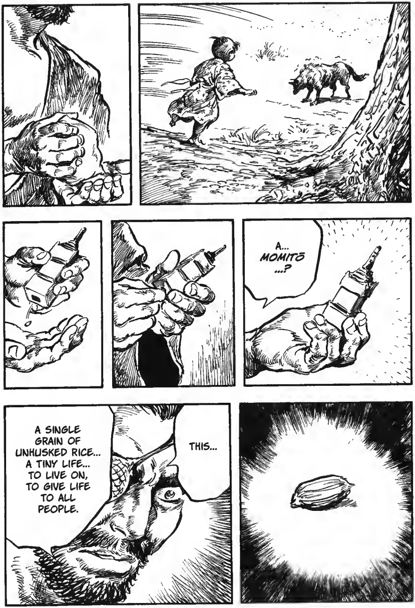

KRSS
KRSS
KRSS
KRSS
ジャ
SHKK
WE ARE NOT YOUR FOES.
WE ONLY OBSERVED THE END OF YOUR BATTLE.
WE ARE *HAGURO SHUGENDŌ**, LIVING IN THE HEART OF NATURE'S FLOW, SUN, WIND, RAIN, SNOW, FROST, THUNDER, MOON, UNTIL WE PASS AND ARE NO MORE. AND THUS WE ASK.

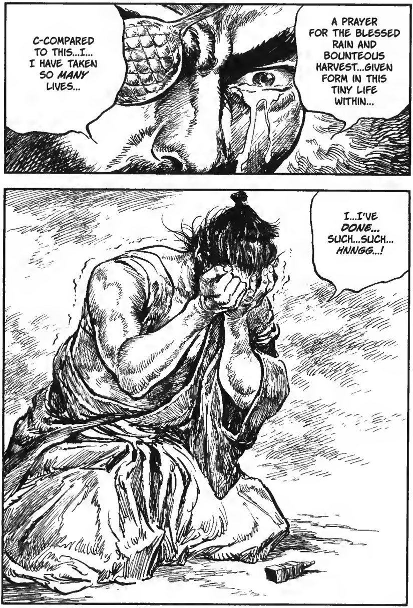
*SEE FOOTNOTES

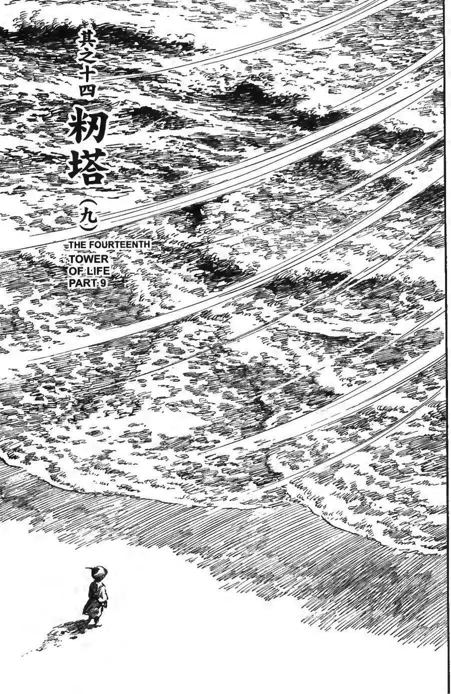

NOR DID YOU KILL THE *HOUND.*
SHE WHO USED *JŌ-JUTSU...*
...WHY TAKE HER *STROKE?!* ANY COULD SEE THE DIFFERENCE IN SKILL. DID YOU ALLOW HER THAT BLOW OUT OF *PITY?* THAT SHE MIGHT BELIEVE SHE HAD *WON?*
WE, TOO, THOUGHT AS MUCH, AND THUS WE ASKED.
I SEE. A SILENT LESSON TO YOUR CHILD TO SPARE THE WEAK.
YOU WILL HAVE YOUR ANSWER WHEN THE BOY IS GROWN.




YOU DO NOT LIVE IN *MEIFUMADŌ*. NOR WALK THE WHITE ROAD BETWEEN THE TWO RIVERS.
SHRUGGING OFF CRUEL DESTINY, YOU ARE A GENTLE FATHER AND SON WALKING THE ROAD OF MAN, STRIVING TO LIVE WELL AND STRONG.

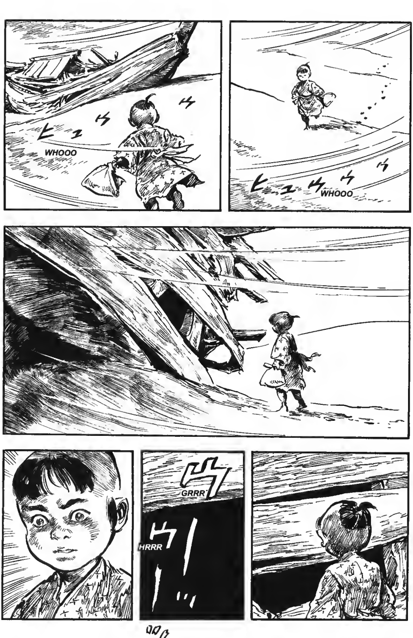

A... *MOMITŌ* ...?
THIS...
A SINGLE GRAIN OF UNHUSKED RICE... A TINY LIFE... TO LIVE ON, TO GIVE LIFE TO ALL PEOPLE.

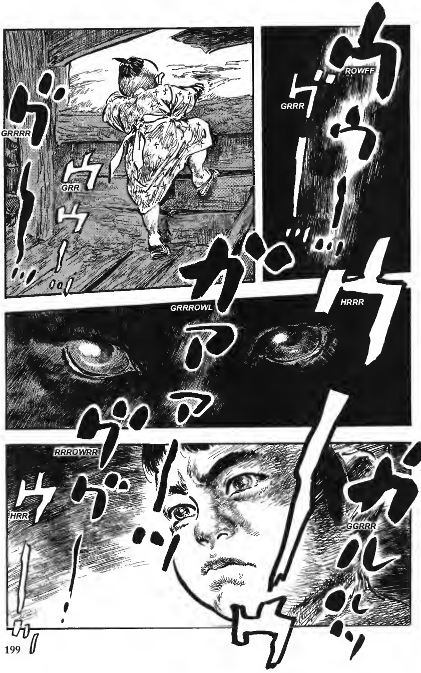

A PRAYER FOR THE BLESSED RAIN AND BOUNTEOUS HARVEST...GIVEN FORM IN THIS TINY LIFE WITHIN...
C-COMPARED TO THIS...I... I HAVE TAKEN SO *MANY* LIVES...
I...I'VE *DONE...* SUCH...SUCH... *HNNGG...!*

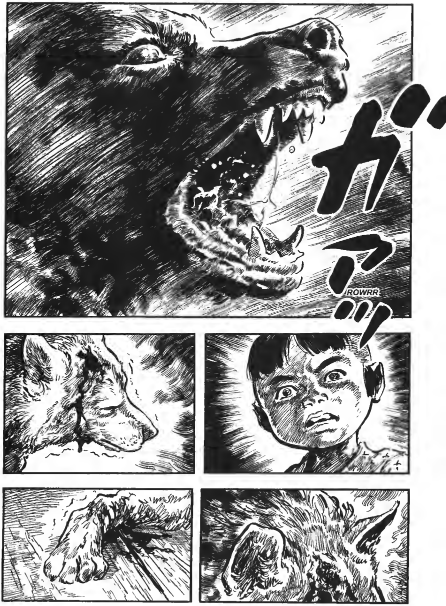


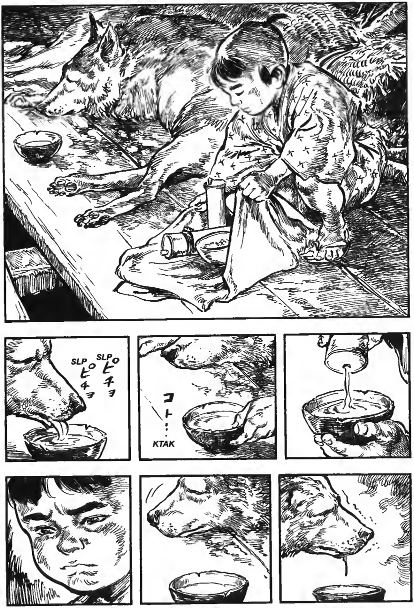
其之十四 籾塔（九）

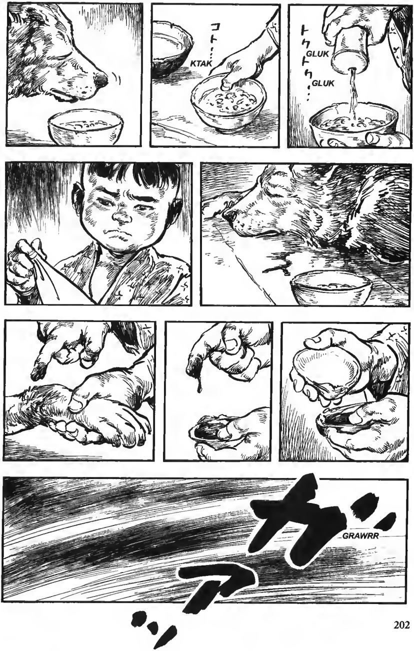
THE FOURTEENTH TOWER OF LIFE PART 9

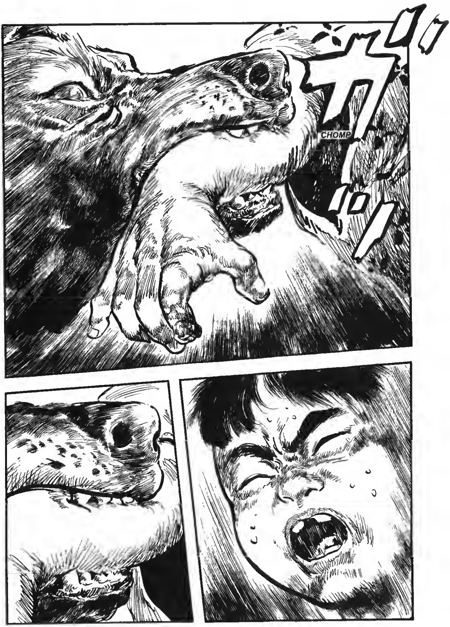

ヒュウウ
WHOOO
ヒュウウウ
WHOOO
GRRR
HRRR


ROWFF
GRRR
GRRRR
GRR
GRRROWL
HRRR
GGRRR
RRROWRR
HRR

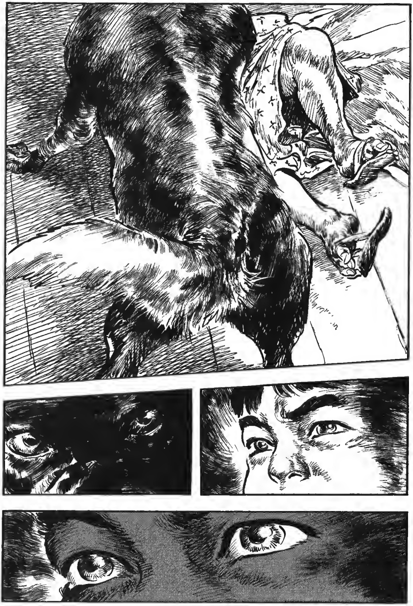

ガァッ
ROWRR

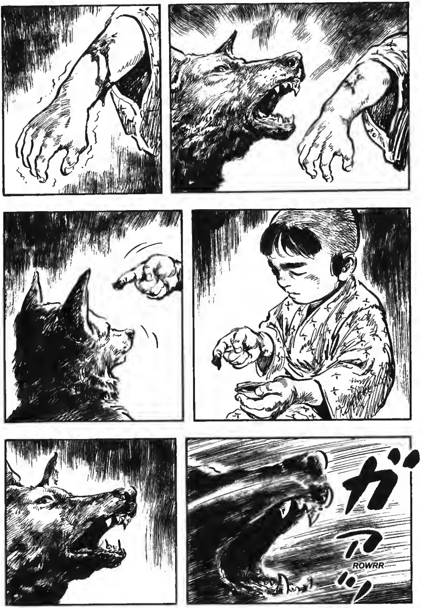

SLP
ピチョ
SLP
ピチョ
コト…
KTAK

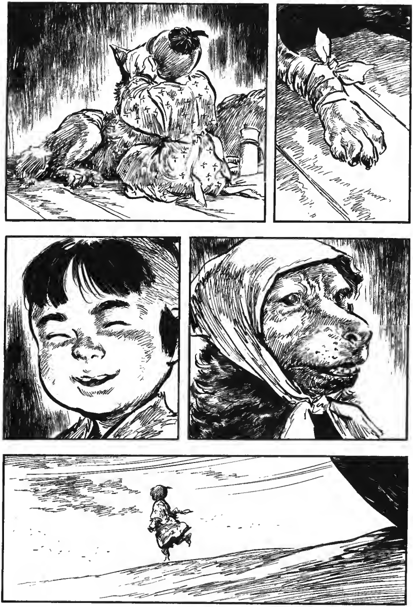

トクトク…
GLUK
GLUK
コト…
KTAK
ガァッ
GRAWRR

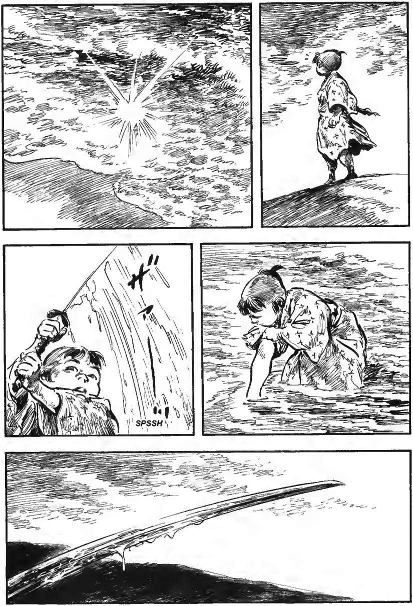


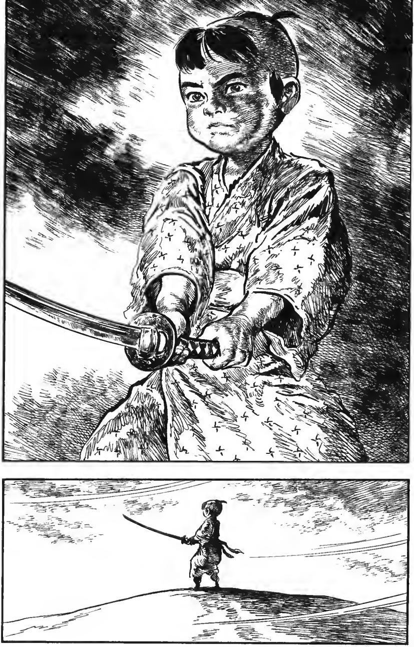
CHOMP

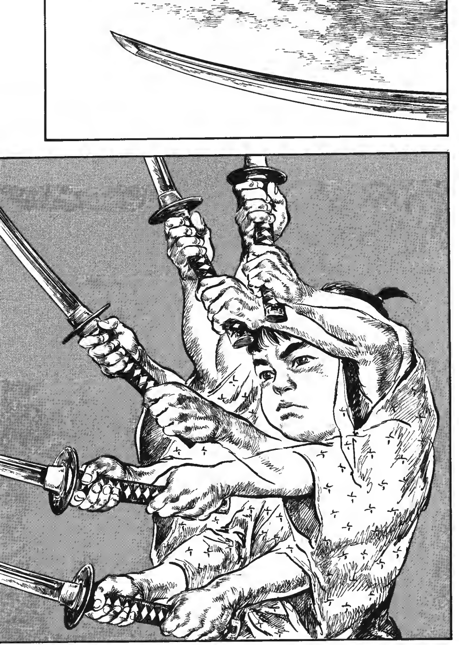


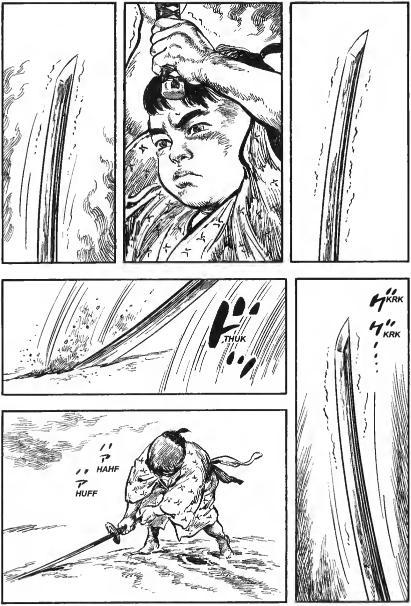

ガアッ
ROWRR

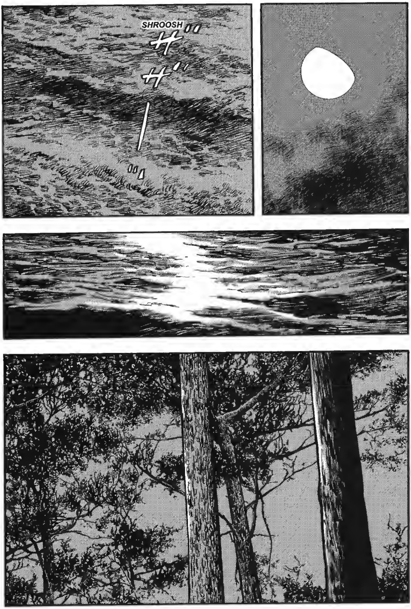


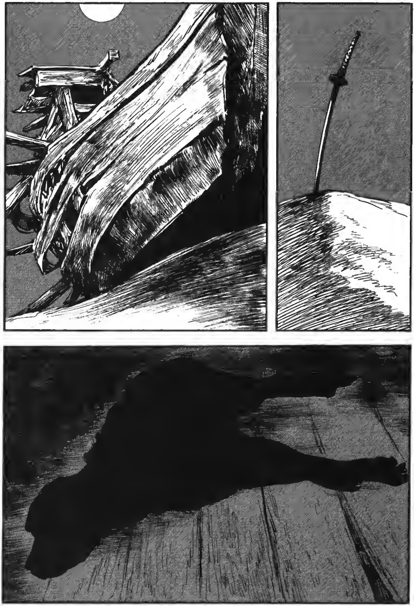

ザァー!!
SPSSH






グKRK
グKRK
ドTHUK
ハァ HAHF
ハァ HUFF


SHROOSH
ザザーッ

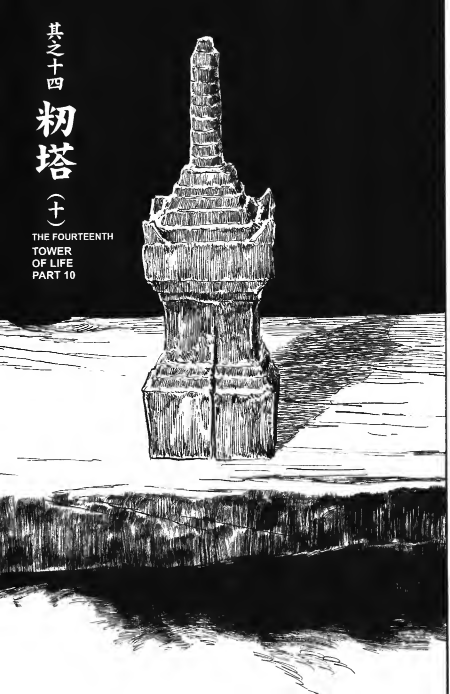


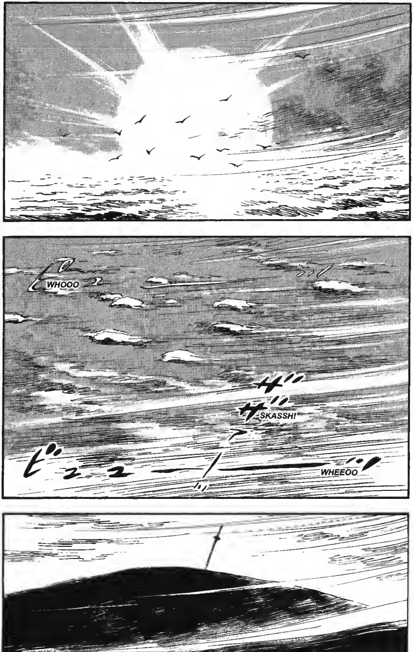
其之十四

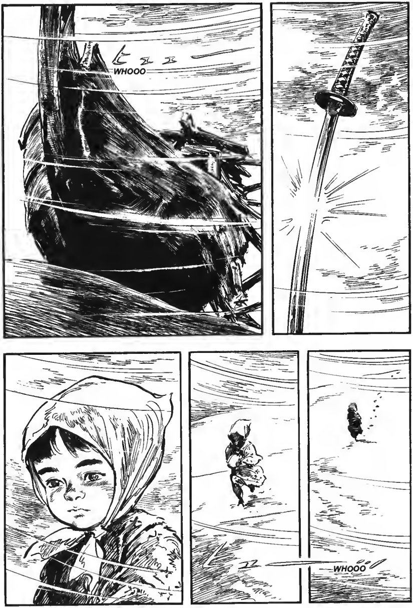
籾塔

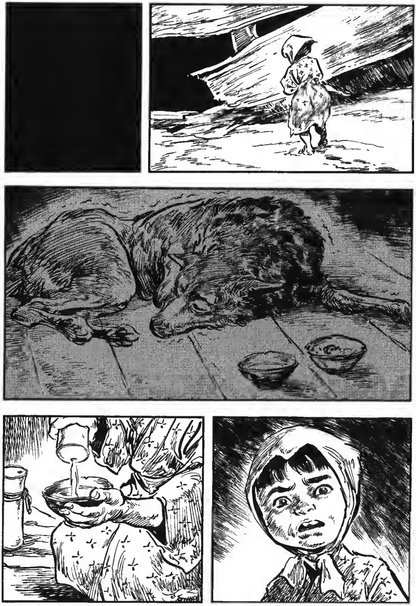
（十）

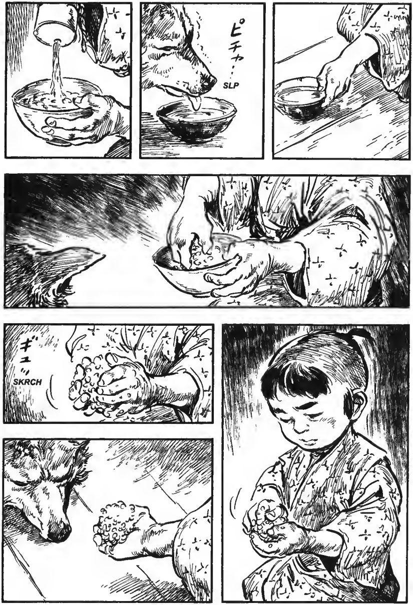
THE FOURTEENTH
TOWER OF LIFE
PART 10

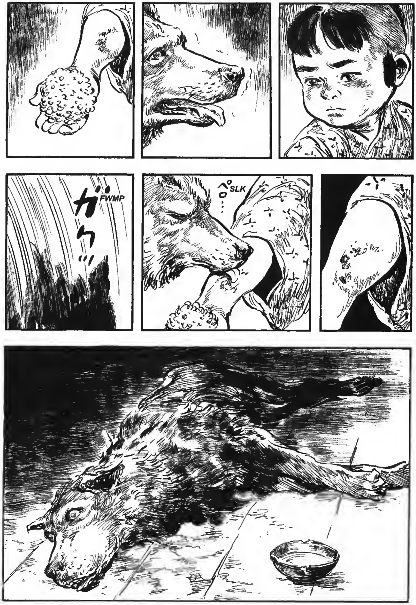


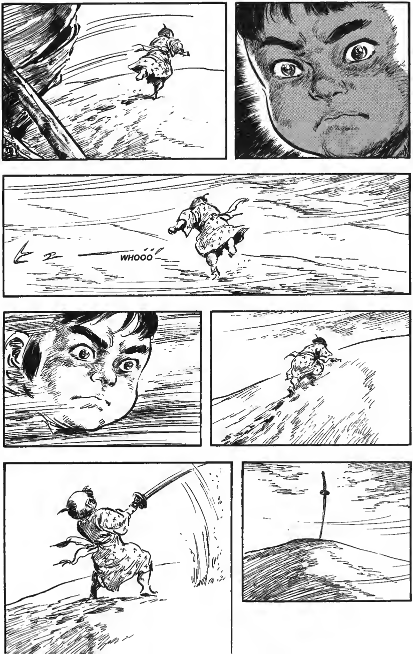

WHOOO
ザザ
SKASSH!
ビュュー
WHEEOO

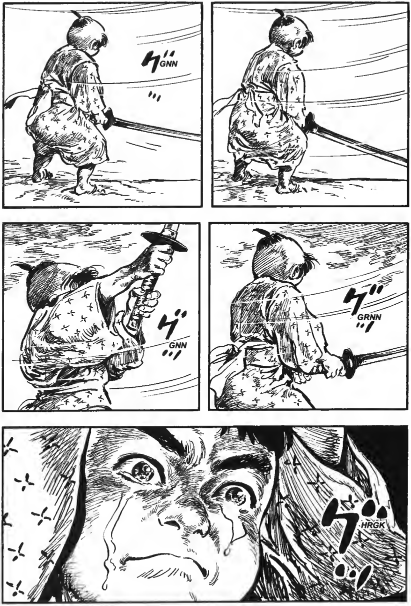

ヒュゥゥー
WHOOO
ヒュー
WHOOO

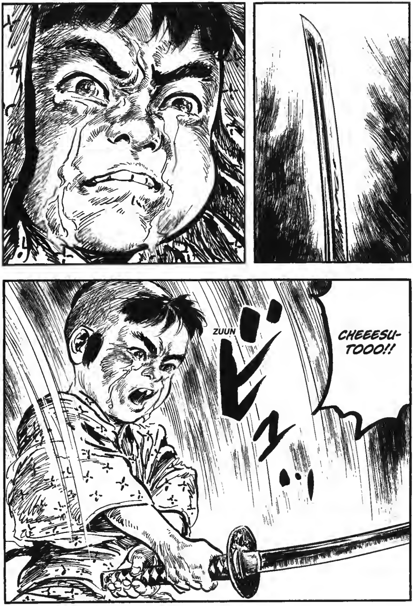


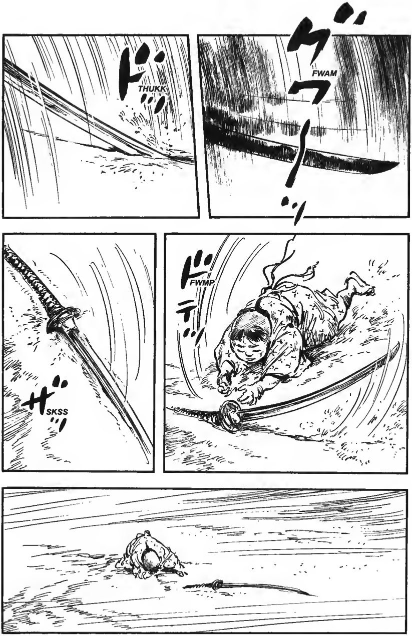

ピチャ…
SLP
ギュッ
SKRCH


ペロ… SLK
ガクッ FWMP


ヒュー
WHOOO


GNN
GRNN
GNN
HRGK


CHEEESU-TOOO!!
ZUUN


ヴワーッ
FWAM
ドッ
THUKK
ドテッ
FWMP
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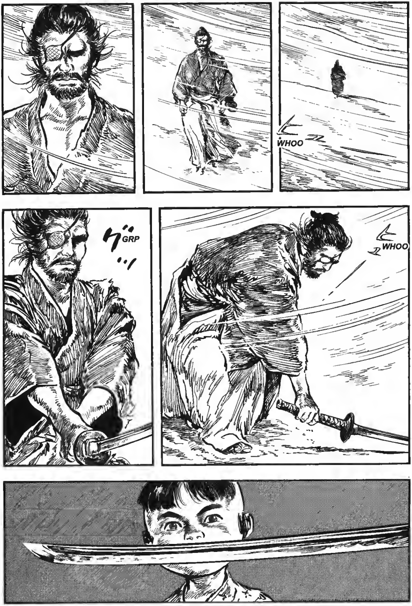
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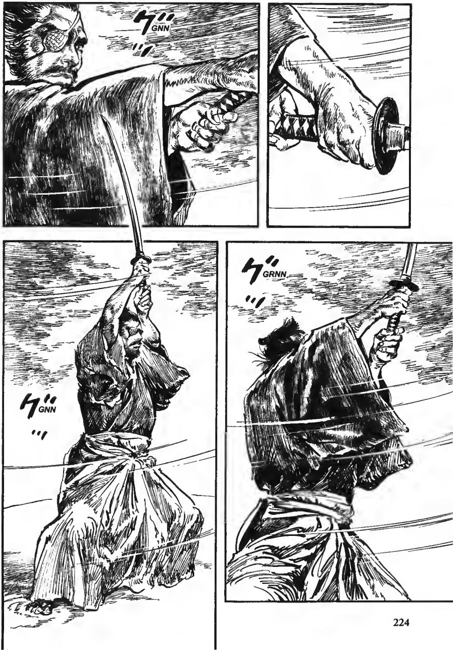
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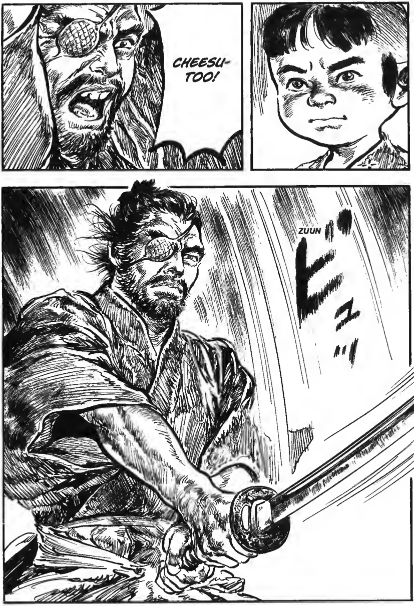
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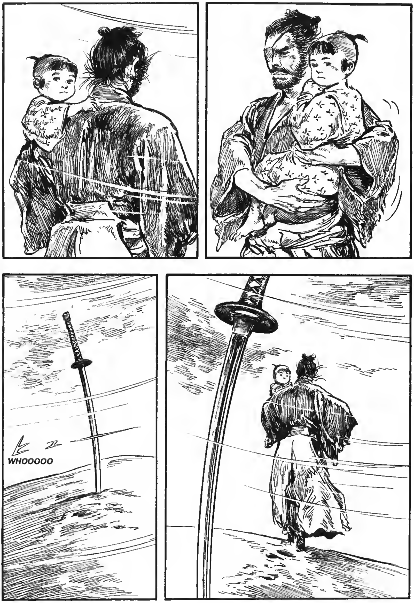
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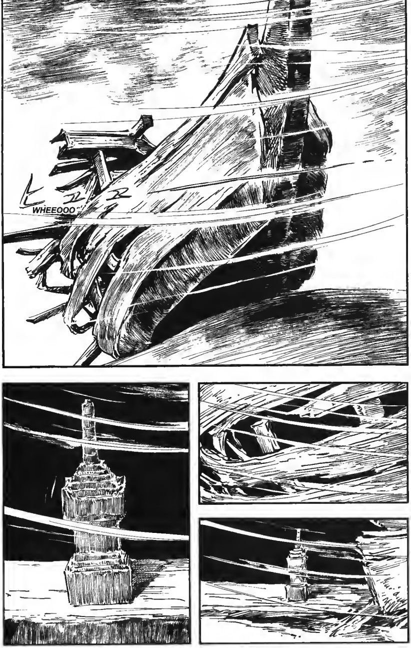
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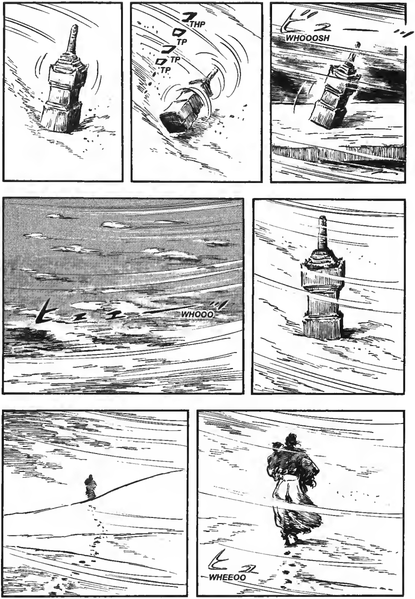
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THE FOURTEENTH: TOWER OF LIFE.THE END.

NEW LONE WOLF AND CUB BOOK EIGHT. THE END

FOOTNOTES

Page 33: The Koishikawa medicinal herb garden, used for compounding Chinese medicines, still exists today as the University ofTokyo Koishikawa Botanical Garden.

Page 35: Note that Rinzō does not use the honorific suffix *–sama* when referring to Ōkubo, instead dismissively calling him Kaga-no-kami with no particular respect.

Page 38: In Japan's indigenous Shinto religion, powerful leaders were venerated after death. Tokugawa Ieyasu received the sanctified name Tōshō Shinkun. The *go-* prefix in *go-*Shinkun is an honorific.

Page 39: Two separate spy apparatuses reported to the *rōjū* senior councilors and to the *wakadoshiyori* junior councilors. The Hattori clan historically reported to the *rōjū*. The semifictional Ushikudonki here report to junior councilors.

Page 42: During the Tokugawa period, the emperor and the imperial court in Kyoto were marginalized by the Tokugawa shogunate, wielding only ceremonial authority with no military or financial power of their own. However, would-be leaders continued to seek their blessing as a mark of legitimacy. The court used *nishiki* brocade banners.

Page 43: In 1852, Hattori Hanzō, then head of one of the Iga-*mono* ("people of Iga") ninja families from the rugged hill country of Iga (in today's Mie Prefecture) northeast of Kyoto, escorted a hotly pursued Tokugawa Ieyasu to safety through dangerous mountain passes after the assassination of Ieyasu's ally and master, the legendary warlord Oda Nobunaga. Safely back in his family stronghold in Mikawa, Ieyasu regrouped, and went on to victory at Sekigahara. Ieyasu rewarded Hanzō by making him and his followers the Tokugawa's own *shinobi* spies. When Hanzō died in 1596 at the age of fifty-five, his son Hattori Iwami-no-kami Masanori succeeded him. Various lines of Iga-*mono* families formed the core of the shogunate's clandestine forces for generations thereafter.

◀ TO PAGE 230

FROM PAGE 229

Page 43: The *sankin kōtai* system was created by Tokugawa Ieyasu as a way of keeping the *daimyō* lords in check. *Daimyō* were required to spend every other year in Edo, and to leave their heirs behind in Edo as virtual hostages when they returned to their *han*. The system was both a physical restraint on their actions and an immense financial burden, given the cost of maintaining elaborate residences and staff in the capital and of traveling between the capital and their home *han* with huge retinues. Some *hanshu* lords were given posts in the shogunate government that required them to stay in Edo permanently, leaving their *han* in control of subordinates and further tightening Tokugawa surveillance and control.

Page 52: Shōgun Tokugawa Hidetada was the second *shōgun* and the third son of Ieyasu. Six Tokugawa *shōgun* are still entombed at the Zōjōji Buddhist temple in modern downtown Tokyo. The remains of the historical Ieyasu are entombed at the famous Tōshōgū Shrine in Nikko in the mountains north of the city.

Page 83: "*Chesuto!*" is the *kiai* battle cry of the Jigen-*ryū* sword school, founded by the historical Tōgō Shigekata (also called Tōgō Chūi). Jigen-*ryū* calls for defeating your enemy with an unblockable first stroke.

Page 163: Hōzōin-*ryū* is the most famous school of spear fighting in Japan, founded in the late sixteenth century by the monk Inei at Kōfukuji Temple in Japan's ancient capital of Nara. Kugatatsu practices a subbranch of this style called Kadan Hōzōin-*ryū*.

Page 191: Shugendō is an ascetic Japanese religious order combining elements of Buddhism and Taoism with Japan's native Shinto religion. Shugendō practitioners undergo trials in the mountains, including fasts and praying under waterfalls. The main shrine of the Haguro branch of Shugendō is at Mount Haguro in northwest Japan, and rites are still performed there today.

GLOSSARY

afuyō An Edo-period term for opium. The modern Japanese term is *ahen*.

daimyō A feudal lord.

-dono An archaic honorific suffix, a marker of respect for higher-ranked or highly respected figures.

Edo The capital of medieval Japan and the seat of the shogunate. The site of modern-day Tokyo.

fudai daimyō Feudal lords who supported Tokugawa Ieyasu, the first Tokugawa *shōgun*, before the 1600 Battle of Sekigahara that established his reign.

go-Shinkun Another name for Tokugawa Ieyasu. In Japan's indigenous Shinto religion, powerful leaders were venerated after death. Tokugawa Ieyasu received the sanctified name Tōshō Shinkun, shortened to *go*-Shinkun. (*Go* is an honorific.)

han A feudal domain.

hanshu The lord of a *han*.

Iga-mono Ninja families from the rugged hill country of Iga, in today's Mie Prefecture. Literally, "people of Iga."

Jigen-ryū The sword school founded by the historical Tōgō Shigekata.

jōjutsu A traditional Japanese martial art, similar to *bōjutsu*, using a short staff roughly four feet in length called a *jō*.

-kō An honorific suffix, a marker of respect for a *daimyō* or senior leader.

kōgi kaishakunin The *shōgun*'s own second, who performed executions ordered by the *shōgun*.

kōshi-gumi The leadership group for the various *kurokuwa* groups, officially in charge of maintaining the shogunate's temple to Confucius.

kurokuwa One of the lowest ranks of servants in Edo Castle, officially in charge of maintaining the *shōgun*'s gardens and other facilities. Widely believed to have also served as a secret ninja force, descended from the Iga ninja clan.

meifumadō The Buddhist hell. The way of demons and damnation.

momitō A small icon, in the shape of a Buddhist stupa tomb, holding a grain of unhusked rice as a symbol of the Buddha and of life.

ninja A covert agent or mercenary of feudal Japan.

Orosha Russia.

Orosha-jin A Russian.

TO PAGE 232

FROM PAGE 231

rōnin A masterless samurai. Literally, "one adrift on the waves."

-sama An honorific suffix, a marker of respect used for superiors.

satoiri ninja Ninja in the *sato* (homeland). In addition to the ninja based in Edo, the shogunate placed ninja undercover in the various *han* of rival lords. These moles would monitor dissident *han* and gather evidence that could be used to blackmail or dissolve a *han* when it stepped out of line.

shōgun One of Japan's military governors from the twelfth to nineteenth centuries.

Tokugawa The warlord clan that unified Japan following its victory at the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600 and ruled until 1867 from its castle in the city of Edo. This period is commonly known as the Edo period. The *shōgun* was both the head of the Tokugawa clan and the head of the Tokugawa *bakufu*—the shogunate government—that ran national policy and kept the often unruly *han* at heel.

Tōshōgū A Shinto shrine dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu, founder of the Tokugawa shogunate. Five hundred such shrines were built during the Edo period, and over a hundred still exist.

tozama daimyō Feudal lords who rallied to the Tokugawa side only after the Tokugawa victory at Sekigahara. Required to spend every other year, or part of each year, in Edo.

ue-sama Literally, "one who is above." Used for the Tokugawa *shōgun* at this time in Japanese history.

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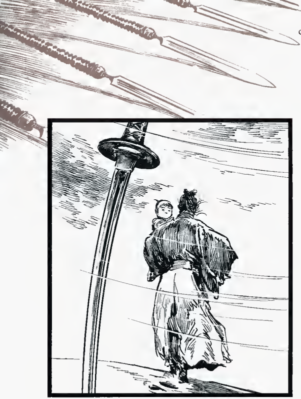

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